New-York Daily Times.

VOL. IV...NO. 1036. NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1855. PRICE TWO CENTS.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE BALTIC.

OPERATIONS BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

SALLIES OF THE GARRISON.

OPENING OF THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY.

SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR.

French Loan of 500,000,000 Francs.

IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE.

Prussia and Her English Envoy.

STATE OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

PARLIAMENT PROROGUED.

FOREIGN ENLISTMENT BILL PASSED.

Markets Quiet—Cotton Unchanged—Consols 91¾.

The United States Mail steamer *Baltic*, from Liverpool early on Saturday morning, 30th of December, arrived at this port at 8 o'clock yesterday.

The *Africa* arrived at Liverpool on Sunday, 24th December, at 12½ o'clock, noon.

The *Sarah Sands* had put into Cork with sails damaged, and would proceed on her voyage when repaired without returning to Liverpool.

The Cunard steamer *Arabia* sailed from Marseilles on 21st December, with 1,640 men of the 16th French Regiment of the line, for the Crimea. The *Arabia* attracted much attention at Marseilles.

The event of the week is the speech of the Emperor of France, which makes no allusion to any prospect of peace, and is followed up by a loan of five hundred millions of francs. There has been an important diplomatic conference at Vienna. The Prussian mission to England proves to have been of no importance. The bill for the enlistment of foreigners into the British service is passed into law. Parliament has adjourned. Affairs before Sebastopol are unchanged. The Arctic exploring ship *Enterprise*, Capt. COLLINSON, has arrived at Hong-Kong, on her way to England. Liverpool Cotton market quiet, favoring buyers, but not quotably lower. Not much activity in the Grain market, but prices are firmly maintained. Money market unchanged. American securities in good demand, especially Virginia stock and Illinois Central Bonds; Eries neglected; fair inquiry for New-York Central Sixes and Sevens, Convertible. Consols have varied very little and closed 91¼@91¾.

A high Diplomatic Conference was to be held on the 20th of December at Lord WESTMORELAND'S office in Vienna. The Ambassadors of England, France, Austria, Prussia and Russia (Prince GORTSCHAKOFF) were to take part in the discussion. The Conference is to be of "a positive character." Lord WESTMORELAND being reported sick, the Conference, for greater convenience and privacy, will be held in his Chambers.

The remaining diplomatic news is comprised in the following dispatch from Vienna, 28th: "Prince GORTSCHAKOFF has presented a note which he has received from St. Petersburg, to Count BUOL. It is believed to be unsatisfactory, but is not the final reply of Russia."

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

[FROM LONDON TO LIVERPOOL BY TELEGRAPH.]

The Crimea.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 1854.

It is confidently asserted that the resolution has been adopted to storm Sebastopol as soon as the Turkish reinforcements come up. The French, it is said, are to storm, while the British and Turks attack MENSCHIKOFF.

There is a report that OMER PASHA has written to the Sultan making it a condition of his accepting the command that he shall have two votes in the council of war, in order to prevent his being over-voted by Lord RAGLAN and General CANROBERT.

VIENNA, Thursday, Dec. 28.

A dispatch from Warsaw announces that the Russian Naval Artillery have been taken out of the Baltic fleet and have arrived at Sebastopol, and *that to their presence is due the present position of* the fire from Sebastopol, as well as the new-found boldness of the fleet.

Another dispatch from Vienna states that at the conference held in that capital on the 28th, notes *were exchanged between the representatives of the* three Allied Powers, defining the sense in which *their Cabinets understood the four points proposed* as conditions of peace.

Prince GORTSCHAKOFF, it is understood, demanded time to obtain the instructions of his Government

THE WAR.

The news from the seat of war may be again summed up in a few words. Nothing new had taken place to the 20th December. The Russians claim to be doing considerable damage to the enemy's approaches, nevertheless the French third parallel is mounted with cannon. To Dec. 18, 18,000 French and English reinforcements had arrived in the Crimea. An official dispatch in the Paris *Moniteur*, from Balaklava, says "The situation of the Allies is excellent." Gen. LIPRANDI, however, with 20,000 men, was manœuvring in the vicinity of Balaklava. MENSCHIKOFF is sick.

On the 6th, 8th and 11th, the garrison of Sebas*topol made sorties, as already published.* The weather continued bad. Five thousand Turks had landed at Eupatoria. The destination of OMAR PACHA'S army is kept profoundly secret, but it is thought they will invest the north side of the *fortress*, and thus complete the lines.

We collect, in date, the few events that have transpired before Sebastopol.

DEC. 5 AND 6.—According to Balaklava letters of the 7th, the sortie made during the night of the 5th was of no great importance. The new French and English batteries are all but completed, as also the works around the Bay of Kamiesch. The bulk of the Russian army is reported at Bakshiserai, but there are powerful bodies of troops, *en echelon*, between that place and Inkermann.

About midnight of the 6th, a movement was observed among the Russians in the valley of Balaklava, and lights were seen moving in the redoubts which they, the Russians, have held since the affair of the 25th October. It was supposed they had received reinforcements, and were about to attack. The Allies turned out and awaited the attack, but after a time the noise of wheels and the tramp of men ceased, and the alarm was over. Towards morning flames broke out from the redoubts, and it was discovered that the Russians had retired. The French cavalry pushed forward, and found only wooden guns in the embrasures, the Russians having succeeded in carrying off all their artillery, to the number of 85 pieces. The immediate reason of this retreat is not known.

DEC. 7.—The fire to-day was not heavy, not well sustained on either side, but there were several severe skirmishes between the French and English riflemen and the Russian carabineers.

At 3 o'clock three battalions of French chasseurs, with nine guns, proceeded from the heights and made a reconnoissance in force along the valley of Balaklava up to the Turkish redoubts. They found that the Russians were still in possession of part of the valley, three battalions of their infantry being visible in the gorge of Tchernaya.

DEC. 8.—Rain during the night was severe; and it having hardened the roads, some of the allies heavy guns were brought to the front.

From this date to the 15th it was stated the Allies have completely repaired their siege and defensive works which had been much damaged by the rain. There had been heavy rains for some weeks, and the whole country was inundated with mud. The communications between Perekop and Simferopol was completely interrupted. A week had elapsed since a courier had arrived at Odessa from Sebastopol. The return of fine weather had materially benefited the state of the roads, and permitted a renewal of activity in both armies.

DEC. 11.—A dispatch of this date states that today the Russians attacked the French outposts, and gained possession of three mortars, but were repulsed with the loss of fifty men.

Other dispatches, via Marseilles, state that in a sortie (the date is assigned by the 12th) the Russians lost 700 men; but whether the two accounts refer to the same transaction it is impossible to say.

Admiral HAMELIN, writing on the 12th, says: "For the last two days the place has kept up a tolerably brisk fire. The enemy has made two vigorous sorties against our lines and those of the English. As soon as he had reached the parapets, he was received by a well sustained fire of musketry, and repulsed at the point of the bayonet, after an obstinate struggle."

DEC. 15.—To-day Gen. OTTEN-SACKEN reconnoitred in force, and a skirmish occurred near the ruins of Inkermann. We have no details.

DEC. 16.—MENSCHIKOFF reports that nothing particular occurred this day. Unfavorable weather hindered the progress of the works, and the fire was feeble, especially from the English batteries.

DEC. 17.—OMER PASHA left Shumla for Constantinople. His proposed future movements are not known.

DEC. 18.—The Paris *Moniteur* publishes "satisfactory" accounts to this date. Reinforcements continued to arrive. Turkish troops were beginning to arrive from Varna.

DEC. 20.—The latest dates are from MENSCHIKOFF, who reports that to the 20th there was no change in the aspect of affairs.

Change of the Line of Defence.

By the last mail from Europe, it was stated that the Russians had retired to their second line of defence, and were removing some of their guns to the ships. This information was telegraphed to the London press. We see no further confirmation of the statement excepting a letter in the *Soldaten Freund*, which says:

"The defence of the Sestuna is now to be conducted on a new plan. The costly *material* will be removed from the bastion on the walls and carried back to the ships. Twenty-two ships have been equipped and are now ready for sea."

It is probable the garrison have mined the places which they pretend to have left.

The *Freeden Blatt* says likewise, that the defence of Sebastopol will no longer extend to the outer line on the Tchernaya, but be confined to the forts. The bulk of the Russian army will entrench itself strongly on the heights near Bakshiserai and Simferopol. The communication with Perekop will be permanent, while that with Sebastopol will depend on contingencies. Detached corps of observation will, however, be placed on the Tchernaya, Belbek, and Katcha.

THE RUSSIAN AND ALLIED FLEETS.

Sortie from Sebastopol.

On the 6th December two Russian steamships, the *Vladimir* and *Bessarabia*, towing six gunboats, came out of the harbor of Sebastopol. One of these steamers, embarking the French frigate *Mogador*, which was aground near, went close in shore to Strelitska Bay, and remained doing so a Frenchtestemer and bomb-ketch which were there. On observing this the English steamer *Sagamore* *Valorous* and *Terrible* went to their relief, on which the Russians retired under shelter of the batteries. This sortie has proved that there is a passage left for egress between the sunken ships, although only wide enough for one ship to pass at a time. The Russian fleet could, however, form in safety under cover of the batteries. A Russian announcement says that this sortie of the steamers was a mere reconnoissance. The allied fleets, excepting the cruisers, are now moored outside of the double Bay of Chersonnesus, where the anchorage is better than at Katcha.

INCIDENTS OF THE WAR.

The Siege of Sebastopol.

The following powerful description of the position of the British army is contained in the *Times* correspondent's letter, dated from the camp before Sebastopol, Dec. 4:

If any of our great geologists want to test the truth of their theories respecting the appearance of the primeval world, or are desirous of ascertaining what sort of view Noah might have had when he looked out of the ark from Ararat, they cannot do better than come out here at once. The whole plateau on which stands "the camp before Sebastopol"—the entire of the angle of land from Balaklava round to Kherson, and thence to the valley of Inkermann—is fitted at this moment for the reception and delectation of any number of ichthyosauri, sauri, and crocodiles—it is a vast black, dreary wilderness of mud, dotted with little locks of foul *water, and seamed by dirty brownish and tawny-*colored streams running down to and along the *ravines*.

"Chaos has come again," or rather has just departed from the scene. A grand plateau of bog, varying in depth from a foot to two feet, extends from the valley of Inkermann to the sea at Balaklava. It is trodden into holes in every direction by the hoofs of mules, horses and camels. It is scarred deeply by the wheels of carts and arabas, and the white tents dotting its surface, and a few white scattered farm-houses, and the snug quarters of Lord RAGLAN, contrast strongly with the black profound amid which they rear their straight outlines. All over its surface are strewed the carcasses of horses and miserable animals torn down by dogs and smothered in mud. Vultures sweep over the mounds in flocks; carrion crows and "birds of prey obscene" hover over their prey, menace the hideous dogs who are feasting below, or sit in gloomy dyspepsia, with drooped head and drooping wing, on the remnants of their banquet.

It is over this ground, gained at last by great toil and exhaustion, and loss of life on the part of the starving beasts of burden, that man and horse have *to struggle from Balaklava for some four or five* miles with the hay and corn, the meat, the biscuit, the pork, which form the subsistence of our army. Every day this toil must be undergone, for we are fed, indeed, by daily bread, and only get half rations of it. Horses drop exhausted on the road, and *their loads are removed* and added to the burdens of the struggling survivors; then, after a few efforts to get out of their Slough of Despond, the poor brutes succumb and lie down to die in their graves. Men wade and plunge about, and stumble through the mud, with muttered imprecations, or sit down on a projecting stone, exhausted, pictures of dire and woe unutterable. Sometimes on the route the overworked and sickly soldier is seized with illness, and the sad aspect of a fellow-countryman dying before his eyes shocks every passer-by—the more because aid is all but hopeless and impossible. Officers in huge sailors' boots, purchased at Balaklava for about five times their proper price, trudge on earnestly in the expectation of being able to carry back to their tents the pot of preserved meat or the fowl, bought at a fabulous cost in that model city of usurydom, are the allotted portion of wood under the cooking tins has been consumed. It requires a soldier's eye to tell captains from corporals now, mounted on draggle-tailed and unkempt ragged ponies covered with mud. They are hairy and muddy, as the police reports would say—in short, "wearing the air of foreigners;" but the vast majority of them are the noblest, cheerfest, bravest fellows in Europe—men who defy privation, neglect, storm and tempest—who, in the midst of difficulties, rarely despond and never despair, and who comfort and animate by the brightest examples of courage and high value, of constancy and undinching resolution, the gallant fellows around them.

The siege operations have been sometimes completely—sometimes partially—suspended, and the attack on Sebastopol has languished and declined. Neither guns nor ammunition could be brought up to the batteries.

The number of heavy guns, the quantity of shot, shell, and powder landed on the beach daily, under the superintendence of Captain ANDERSON, R. A., are enormous, but they lie there with no present prospect of being moved to the point.

The Russians have been emboldened by our inactivity to crawl about at nights, and beat up the advanced posts. It is no wonder that men who may have carried a considerable load from Balaklava to the camp, and who may be sent out after a scanty meal to pass twelve hours in a ditch, sometimes are less vigilant than they ought to be for the safety of the army. In some such way was it that the picquets of the 50th were surprised the other night in front of the right attack, and indeed report says that some of the men were bayonetted by the Russians as they lay in their blankets.

There are many points on which a little attention and care would save great trouble to the men, and increase their strength. For instance, the coffee which is served out to the men is the green, unroasted berry. The men have neither roasting nor grinding apparatus. The day of the issue the men are made to do duty for the rest, and is spoiled; a couple of ounces are used in lieu of the other, and spoil the coffee; but the hardship of roasting and grinding the berry over small bits of sticks, and in wet and storm, can only be known to those who try to get a breakfast by adopting these conditions of obtaining it. Why not send out good coffee ready ground in handy tins? Surely, it is not worth while to practice economy on such a dear article as a soldier. These are not "grumbles," but honest complaints against the perpetuation of remediable grievances. The want of clothing, the want of fuel, the want of shelter, the want of food, which have cost the army and the nation so dearly, might, I sincerely and solemnly believe, have been obviated by a small exertion of ordinary "prevoyance." The articles which are arriving to-day in the *Belgravia*, should have been here long ago, and the supplies we are expecting daily, however welcome, are late. They will be of service only to those who have survived, or who have maintained health and strength under cold and wet. We have tents, but cannot get them up to the camp. There is a great deficiency of hospital mangnesa, and horrible as it is to think of such a thing, it is no less true that, according to information received from no doubtful source, five men of a battalion of the Guards were found dead outside one of the tents within the last thirty hours.

The mortality among the Turks has now assumed all the dimensions of a plague. Every sense was offended and shocked by the display, day after day, in the streets, of processions of men bearing half-covered corpses on litters, at the busiest hours of the day; and Col. DAVENEY at last gave orders, or rather granted permission, that the Turks should bury their dead on the hill-side, over the town. Yesterday, ere evening, upwards of seventy bodies were carried to their long home and deposited in their shallow graves, not above a foot inches deep, and were left with a shovelfull or two of earth and pebbles over them, as close together as they could be packed. To-day the same process is going on. I can count thirty-five bodies already on the ground, and it is early in the day. Over the hill-side come men bearing more litters. As the result of such a mode of burial would be the outbreak of some all-destroying pestilence, the commandant of the place has ordered it to be discontinued, and the Turks must in future bury their dead outside the town in the valley, in graves four feet deep.

DEC. 5.—The works of our new attack have been completed, and are now awaking their armament. Owing to the cessation of rain we have been enabled to get up to the artillery park five guns of position and three 13-inch mortars. The scarcity of rations continues, except among the Guards, the Marines and Rifles on the heights, and the Highland Brigade near the town of Balaklava. Lieut.-Col. DE BUTTE and his recently arrived depôts for the Scots Fusilier Guards, are stationed on the extreme French left, between St. George and Cape Chersonese, and are engaged in the manufacture of gabions, these being abundance of brushwood in the neighborhood. The detachment is about eight miles from the head-quarters of the Guards on our right.

The number of applications sent to Lord RAGLAN for leave to retire, to sell out, or to go on half-pay, is said to be very great. The Duke of WELLINGTON had to contend against the same evil in Spain. It is said, but I do not know whether there is any good ground for the assertion—and I am inclined to think there is none—that after Lord GEORGE PAGET'S name appeared in orders as having received permission to retire, no less than one hundred and eighty applications to sell out or go on half-pay were sent in to the commander of the forces. Some of these have, it is stated, been acceded to—that is, Lord RAGLAN has sent them to the commander-in-chief of the army, with rather sarcastic recommendations that the permission sought for be granted; others have been refused, inasmuch as the colonels of the regiments to which the applicants belonged did not approve of the application. If reports be true, indeed, some of these gentlemen were "no great loss," and the army is well rid of them. One young person who recently retired, and who belongs to the nobility, to whose gallant conduct here he offered a striking contrast, had been publicly rebuked, by his commanding officer *for his disorderly and pusillanimous conduct* ere he retired.

DEC. 6.—Last night, at 12 o'clock, there was a great stir down in the Valley of Balaklava. The *hoarse hum of great crowds of men was heard by* the picquets, and they reported the circumstances *to the officers* of the French regiments on the heights. Lights were seen moving about in the redoubts occupied by the Russians since the affair of the 25th of October. It was supposed that the enemy had received reinforcements, or were about to make a dash at our position before Balaklava. The Hospital Guards and the invalid battalion were at once turned out, and the French, shrouded in their capotes, grimly waited in the lines the first decisive movement of the enemy. The night was cold, but not clear, and after a time the noise of the wheels and the tramp of men ceased, and the alarm was over. Ere morning, however, we knew the cause of it, for about 5 o'clock A. M., an outburst of flames from the redoubts in which the Russians had butted themselves illuminated the sky, and at the same time the fire broke out in the cottages on the slope of the hill before Komara. When morning came the smoke was seen ascending to heaven, and the Russians were visible in much diminished numbers on the higher plateaux of the hills near Schergous and Komara. The faint rays of the morning sun played on the bayonets of another portion of the force as they wound up the road towards Mackenzie's Farm, and *passed through the wood over the right bank of the* Tchernaya. The reason of this retreat remains unknown to us as yet. Perhaps the Russian General was informed by his spies that the French had landed on the north side of Sebastopol, and were marching on his flank, for the story of the landing is universally believed, and is utterly untrue. It is more probable, however, that the severity of the weather and want of shelter forced him to abandon the position in the valley. The French pushed down their cavalry, and seized the plain. They found dumbies (mock guns) in the embrasures, the Russians having carried off all their artillery, to the number of eighty-five pieces.

DEC. 7.—A warm fine day, bright sun, and clear sky. This is indeed a treat, for though it is a prelude of wintery snow and frost, even that would be a delightful change. It would dry the roads, and enable us to feed our men and arm our batteries. Certainly it will also do service to the Russians, for it will permit them to get up their supplies. The fire to-day was not heavy or well-sustained on either side, but there was more than one severe brush between the *riflemen*, French and English, and the Russian carbineers. At 3 o'clock, three strong battalions of infantry of the 2d *Division*, consisting of Chasseur Regiments, and accompanied by nine field guns, proceeded down from the height on the rear of our right, and made a reconnoissance *en force* along the valley of Balaklava up to the Turkish redoubts. They halted at the base of the hill, generally held by our videttes, and threw forward a very strong line of skirmishers, which spread all across the plain, and advanced with caution across it. The main body of infantry and the guns followed. Four Cossacks showed themselves above the summit of No. 4 redoubt, and, as the French advanced, a body of horsemen came in sight, and gave us a plain demonstration that our hopes were unfounded, and that the Russians were still in possession of a portion of the valley. Three battalions of infantry were visible in the gorge of the Tchernaya. The French, however,

[illegible] "I think [illegible] well-warmed [illegible] to call a "crushing" [illegible] to the East. We ought to have [illegible] at all events, to transmit [illegible] of the season, to the allies in [illegible] and their anxious friends at home. [illegible] we can be conducted anywhere [illegible] there must be an duty of the [illegible] of the skies, nor choose [illegible] midnight or morning surprises. If the [illegible] well-fevered army of writers, commanders and princes, who could do anything they can at least make it all pleasant [illegible] up a Christmas Carol, even out of such materials as the letters of our correspondent in the Crimea. That is the feeling [illegible] and we cannot be surprised that [illegible] to the four quarters of [illegible] political horizon, making a [illegible] of their own should wish Sebastopol [illegible] till the end of the holidays. [illegible] we will do what we can, though it cost [illegible] on our recollection that the [illegible] upon the Birth [illegible] generation happened [illegible] of the year. It was in a merry [illegible] that a large British force disappeared in [illegible] But let that alone. To the task before us. [illegible] and endeavor the most, we can do is to [illegible] the expectations still cherished [illegible] was now rather revived. Our official [illegible] matters have certainly seen their [illegible] The mortality has been frightful, but the [illegible] is over; there will now be a spell of fine open weather; materials for "batting" must be now arriving every day, and other supplies in [illegible] There are now before Sebastopol [illegible] we are assured at home, though we do [illegible] in our own letters,—45,000 French and [illegible] British troops. These are sufficient for the [illegible] of guarding Balaklava, guarding [illegible] manning all the trenches and batteries, and having 10,000 to spare for the assault, which [illegible] place—we say they will place. The whole army is eager for an assault, if only to [illegible] to their own misery. The Allies are [illegible] waiting till the English have mounted the new [illegible] of large calibre lately arrived. [illegible] have hitherto been impeded by the [illegible] circumstance, that ever since the Battle of the Tchernaya, Liprandi's corps has held possession of the best road, or rather the only regularly made road from Balaklava to Sebastopol; and we have been obliged to drag our cannon and everything else as well as we could up the steep face of the hill from Balaklava towards the French position, through the rough road instead of along a hard road. It is this that has killed nearly all our horses and a great number of men; brought our army to half rations, prevented supplies of all kinds from reaching our camp, and, in fact, prolonged the siege to the middle of the Winter. Happily, however, the retreat of Liprandi has left the regular road free, and doubtless the British army has profited by the opportunity to bring up its heavy pieces to the newly-constructed batteries. No impediment can now stand in the way of an assault; and in well-informed circles there prevails a confident expectation that ere this an assault has actually taken place, and that it is more than possible the city is now in our hands.

We hope and think that it may be so. Dreadful as it must be to reflect on the possibility of 70,000 British and French soldiers and some 20,000 Turks [illegible] upon a city that has so long defied their efforts, and for the possession of which they have gone through so much suffering, yet we [illegible] it as the choice of evils. We desire [illegible], and it is but natural we should desire, at any sacrifice, the cessation of a state of things which costs us every week as much death and sickness as a pitched battle, without the glory; and, still worse, without any result. Nevertheless, we are [illegible] in caution that we have little expectation that any such great has happened, or is likely to happen, at present. We bear in mind the unpalatable fact that Sebastopol is [illegible] much stronger than it was when the [illegible] found themselves before it. It is [illegible] better garrisoned, and, for aught [illegible] quite as well provisioned. The new [illegible] up for the protection of the town on [illegible] side has excited the astonishment of the besieg[illegible] not merely for their extent, their scale, and their completeness, but for the fastidious neatness with which they have been executed. They [illegible] an abundance of hands and a zeal for the work, presenting a strange contrast to the operations of our own overworked army. From the first day of the siege it has always been thought possible to take the place by assault, at a certain large sacrifice of men; and the question is, whether the generals who did not feel themselves equal to the responsibility of such a step in September should have got over their scruples now, when the odds are evidently so much against us. In fact, the price of the capture rises like that of the Sybilline books, and Lord RAGLAN, if he would ever see the inside of Sebastopol, must make up his mind to follow the example of the King of Hearts, and give three times as many men for the city now as he would have had to pay at first. For our part, there is hardly any present cost that we should think too great for it now. Were the immediate capture of the place to cost the allies 10,000 more in killed and wounded, we are persuaded that the remainder more of such work as we have had would have cost as many more, and leave the work still to be done. Done, however, it must be, unless we would make ourselves the laughingstock of the world, and enable Russia to say that we had done our worst, and that she feared us no longer.

Since, however, we have given publicity to these confident expectations, we will add a word of another purport. Should these expectations be utterly disappointed; should the armies of the allies dwindle down from 70,000 to the old dead level of 40,000 men; and should the Generals still think it necessary to wait for reinforcements, then we must say that the disappointed public will require rather imperatively that the army be reinforced, not only with fresh nerve and bone, but also with new heart and mind. It is HEAD—HEAD—HEAD that is wanted, as well as the limbs of the rude helpless soldier. What is the use of sending regiments perpetually onwards to the seat of war, to perish by scores from the very day of their arrival, if we do not send out men who can take care of them? The regiments advanced from Gibraltar, Malta and Corfu, and even the 50 strong, healthy policemen, sent from this metropolis, seem find die, where they have to live, to work, to walk, to sit, to eat and drink, and sleep, in wet clothes and wet boots, under wet tents, on the wet ground, in watery trenches, under rainy skies. The human frame was not made for this sort of work and since the work has doubled, the [illegible] have been reduced to half-rations, and the tents have blown away, and the pest has stalked triumphant through the camp. What, too, can be the use of sending for more of the unfortunate Turks when they bring not feed with them, are dependent on a very short allowance of biscuit from the British stores, and, like Irish laborers on four-[illegible] land, "live in nothing for nothing?" It is [illegible] that has been wanted throughout. There is no denying it. A plain proof is found in the fact that nothing whatever has happened in the time that was not known beforehand, and that could not have been provided for. This was not the case of a Cortes in a position in the interior, some hundreds of miles from the coast, attacked after a long and destructive march, presenting numerous obstacles, to be encountered by an army diminished beyond computation. This was a fortress on the sea, which we call our own, filled with our ships, within 48 hours' sail of friendly shores and cities, the besieging army being all the time within sight and even within sound of the surge. There was nothing whatever that could not have been provided against. We knew the plan and wide-spread position of Sebastopol. The easy mine hanging up on our walls are from plans that existed in this country long before the siege began. We knew that the siege would be prolonged into the heart of Winter, and that the latter months of the year would be rainy and stormy. We knew that soldiers would infallibly perish without sufficient food, clothing and covering over their heads. We knew the sort of diversion and succor we should have to traverse in the event of our having to establish ourselves outside the city. We know perfectly well the nature of the roads round Sebastopol, and that, while we were preparing to visit at the exterior defences, it would be in the power of the Russians to concentrate an inner line. We knew that whatever could be done would be done. Yet we had foreseen nothing; and, great as our resources are, we have proved ourselves not ingenious, [illegible] the world, we have really shown no more skill or active in the [illegible] than we have done since the Sebastopolis would have done 2,000 years ago. All this time we are surpassed by everybody, and only boast a sorry superiority over the Turks, whom, accordingly, we always underrate. The French compare us in their heads, in their feet, in their fists, in their food and clothing, in their tactics, in everything, and are beginning to look on our helplessness much as we look on that of our barbarous allies. The Russians surpass all three—French, British and Turks—in everything, except in mere physical strength and courage. There we come off the best. Yet how disgraceful that England, so wealthy, so manufacturing, and with such infinity of resources, should, after all, depend on the rawest material of war—the British soldier—and should be reduced to throw him away by wholesale, in order to make up for our want of military science, not to say common sense! Thus has been the case hitherto, though we cannot think that it will last much longer.

The Baltic.

The *Governments of England and France* have notified the Swedish Government that they intend to withdraw the permission, which they gave this year, for trade to be carried on between Finmark and the Russian harbors in the White Sea during the blockade of the said ports, and that the armed forces of the Allies, when it next appears in those seas, will have orders to put a stop to all commercial intercourse. This announcement was officially made known at Christiana on December 9.

Russian Items.

The CZAR's two sons passed Perekop on the 9th, returning to St. Petersburg.

A Russian ukase is published ordaining that whoever shall, after a battle, commit acts of cruelty on the wounded or unresisting, shall suffer the punishment of death.

Gen. MURAWIEFF is appointed to the command of the Caucasian army, with all the powers previously enjoyed by Prince WORONZOFF. Gen. OSTEN-SACKEN is removed from the command of the third to the fourth corps, *vice* DANNENBERG disgraced.

The exportation of sheepskins, provisions, rope, sail cloth, linen and live cattle is prohibited from the Russian ports of the Danube, Black Sea and Sea of Azof.

Odessa letters state that some anxiety existed there, from the hints of the London papers, respecting an intended bombardment of the place; but on the spot there was no appearance of any hostile demonstration.

It is not generally known that the chief engineer *officer who conducts the defence of Sebastopol is* Gen. DESTREM, a Frenchman. DESTREM was presented to the service of the Emperor ALEXANDER by NAPOLEON I., at the time of the treaty of Tilsit. DESTREM is not only an accomplished engineer, but a poet of considerable talent. He has translated into French verse the fables of KRILOFF, called "the Russian LAFONTAINE."

The *Journal of St. Petersburg* contains an order relative to the forwarding of gifts to the wounded in the Crimea. Officers are appointed to visit the wounded of the fleet, to administer relief in money and comforts, to take their instructions respecting the care of their families, and to take charge of their letters, and otherwise to administer aid. Sixty Sisters of Charity have been sent as nurses.

Gen. SCHABELSKY, a most energetic man, has succeeded Gen. ANNENKOFF as Governor of Odessa.

Eight English steamers have been taking soundings off Etchakoff; hence it is surmised that the Allies will make an attack on Kinburn preparatory to an attack on Perekop.

A ukase, dated Dec. 13, orders a levy of 10 men in every 1,000 throughout the eastern half of the Empire; to commence on the 15th of February, and be completed by the 15th of March. Jews are not exempt.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Adjournment of Parliament—Passing of the Foreign Enlistment Bill—Unpopularity and Supposed Illegality of the Measure—General News.

Parliament is not in session, and the news is consequently scanty. A brief meeting of both Houses was held on Saturday, the 23d, at which the Royal assent was given to the bill for the enlistment of foreigners, and to the Militia Embodiment bill, which have now become law. Both Houses then adjourned until the 23d of January.

The foreign enlistment continues as unpopular as ever. By-the-way, there are doubts expressed if Germans can legally enlist under the new act, seeing that, by article 18 of the act of the German Federation, it is expressly forbidden to German subjects to enter into the military service of foreign States.

Captain J. T. PEAT, late of the Australian packet ship *Golden Era*, has been tried at Liverpool for neglect of duty, and is sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.

A statement having been made that Col. COLT had gone to Russia to supply the Czar with revolvers, he writes a letter to the London *Times* saying it is not his fault if all his facilities of manufacture are not now at disposal of the British Government.

There is a man named PETCHEY, 108 years of age, now living near London. He was a soldier during 29 years of his earlier life, and fought against the United States in the first American war.

The United States frigate *San Jacinto* arrived at Gibraltar, Dec. 12. The steamer *New-York* passed the straits on the same day, with troops for the East.

Foreign Enlistment Bill.

DEBATE IN THE COMMONS DEC. 22.

Mr. COBDEN said, before considering other questions in relation to the war, it was necessary to ask what was its object, respecting which he could never get any intelligible notion. Some supposed it was to open the Black Sea or the Danube to merchant vessels, whereas both were open. Others imagined that we had a treaty with the Sultan, binding us to defend him and his dominions. But Lord ABERDEEN had declared that no such treaty existed before the war. There was, indeed, a strong feeling out of doors that Russia had oppressed certain nationalities, and he assumed that the statesman's ground of war was to defend the Turkish empire against the encroachments of Russia, and to keep the States of Europe within their present limits. But were not the other nations of Europe as much interested as we in this object, and in withstanding a deluge of barbarism? And had we not accomplished the object when Russia renounced all intention of invading Turkey, and, as acknowledged by Lord J. RUSSELL, made proposals of peace on the basis of the four points? Austria and Prussia, it was said, had agreed to these terms, and they were more interested in the quarrel than we; why, then, should we not entertain them? We were not to be Don Quixotes, to fight the battles of the world. The destruction of Sebastopol would not prevent its reconstruction or the fortification of some other port in the Black Sea. Nor would it secure Turkey, which could be safe only when its internal condition was improved, its administration reformed, and its resources developed, whereas war demoralized the Turks, whom, since our arrival, we had humiliated and degraded. The country had been misled into a belief that the Mahomedan population of Turkey, which was perishing, was incapable of regeneration, which was a delusion. Instead, then, of continuing war, having accomplished its original object, as declared in the Queen's speech, why not take even chance of the result of accepting the proposals of peace, especially if, as Mr. LAYARD had predicted, the war was only beginning? Sympathy for the condition of our suffering countrymen should urge the House, if there was no paramount object in continuing a siege which involved an immense sacrifice of precious lives, to encourage the Government to look with favor on those proposals.

Lord J. RUSSELL made a general reply to the arguments in opposition to the bill, which were derived, he said, chiefly from a repugnance to the employment of foreigners, and declamations in favor of employing British troops. He dwelt upon the inconsistency of those who complained of tempting men by mercenary motives, and at the same time advised the offer of larger bounties to our own men. Adverting to the speech of Mr. COBDEN, he justified the character of the war, which was not, he observed, unforeseen; 34 or 35 years ago NAPOLEON predicted that the next great war would arise from an attempt of the Emperor of Russia to get possession of Turkey, and that if anything could unite England and France it would be such an attempt. In one remarkable respect NAPOLEON proved himself to be in error, he having supposed that Austria would be tempted by a share of the spoils of Turkey, and would become a confederate of Russia. To the honor of Austria, that had not been the case. The propositions of Russia, which had led to this war, aimed not only at the total alienation of the Danubian Principalities from the Sultan, and the growth of the Russian power, but at the destruction of free institutions and a check to civilization and knowledge. Mr. COBDEN now said there was nothing more to be done but to sign a treaty of peace and leave things as they had been, allowing Russia all the means of subduing Turkey, without the prospect of such an combination against him. As to the terms on which we ought to cease from the consumption of hostilities, if we had not resolved to dismember Russia, and the "four points" appeared to him eminently moderate. After an exposition of the nature and object of each of these points, Lord JOHN observed that the war was commenced for no speculative object, but in order to resist aggression, and that there must be some security for the permanence of peace, which was as necessary for Austria as for France and England. Unless Russia consented to such fair and moderate terms as he would be the duty of the allied Governments to propose—if the Emperor was of opinion that that great scheme, which began before the reign of CATHERINE, must be persevered in, he (Lord JOHN) was convinced that we should have, before *the opening of the next campaign*, the alliance of Austria with us in an offensive and defensive treaty, and, if Prussia joined in that treaty, the war would then be ended by an honorable and a durable peace.

Mr. BRIGHT defended Mr. COBDEN, whose arguments, he contended, Lord J. RUSSELL had misapprehended—he must not say "misrepresented." He denied that the Turks were, as Lord PALMERSTON alleged, improving; the Mahomedans in Turkey were retrograding. Nothing could be in a worse condition than the commerce, the industry, and the revenue of Turkey, and the Government had undertaken to set up this feeble empire. He relied upon certain facts to show that the present Government were alone responsible for the failure of the negotiations *previous to the war. He staked his* veracity upon the assertion that the policy which led to the war was adopted solely by the British Government, which was making war, he said, against a State which had accepted their own terms of peace, and they were bound to exact no further terms than they believed at first gave a sufficient security. This had been a destructive war, terribly destructive to our officers, and in every village a cottage might be found into which sorrow had entered, and entered through a policy of the Government which ought to have been avoided.

The House then divided, when the third reading was carried by 173 against 135—a majority of 38.

The Solicitor-General moved to substitute a new clause for the second, introducing the words, "and the men serving under this act shall not be billetted or quartered on any person."

The clause was agreed to and added to the bill.

A clause moved by Mr. L. KING, providing that officers, when reduced shall not be entitled to half-pay, but that her Majesty may make provision for such as are wounded in the service, was agreed to.

The bill then passed.

FRANCE.

The Emperor's Speech—Comments of the Press Thereon—Its Effect on the Funds—Great Loan of 500,000,000 Francs—The British Vote of Thanks to the French Army.

On Tuesday, the 26th December, the Emperor NAPOLEON III. opened in person in the Salle des Maréschaux, at the Palace of the Tuileries, the legislative session of 1855. The throne was placed at the end of the room elevated on a dais, in the bay of the window which looks into the garden. On the right of the throne was placed a chair for Prince JEROME BONAPARTE, and on the left, another for Prince NAPOLEON, absent in the Crimea. On the right and left of the two chairs were seats for the recognized princes of the BONAPARTE family, and near them others for the great officers of the Crown, the Cardinals, Marshals, Admirals, Ministers, Grand Crosses of the Legion of Honor, the President, Vice-President and members of the Council of State. The Diplomatic Corps occupied a position to the right of the Emperor, the members of the Senate were in front of the throne to the right, and the members of the *Corps Legislatif*, to the left; deputations from the judicial body, the Catholic and the non-Catholic Clergy, and the superior Commandant of the National Guard and staff. A number of Generals and Colonels of the Imperial Guard and the army of Paris were also present.

The gallery above and in front of the throne, was reserved for the Empress, the Princesses, the ladies of the Imperial household, and others who had received invitations. At 11½ o'clock the ladies invited took their places; at 12 o'clock came the *Corps Diplomatique*; at five minutes to 1 o'clock, a Master of Ceremonies announced the Empress. A salvo of 101 guns notified her arrival, and, attended by the Princess MATILDE and a bevy of ladies, EUGENIE entered and took her place in front of the throne. Immediately thereafter the Emperor, attended by a brilliant *cortege*, entered the hall and took his seat on the throne. Prince JEROME NAPOLEON seated himself on the right; Prince LUCIEN LOUIS and Prince LUCIEN MURAT on the left. An usher proclaimed, "Gentlemen, be seated!" —after which, NAPOLEON pronounced the following

SPEECH:

GENTLEMEN, SENATORS AND DEPUTIES: Since our last meeting great events have happened. The appeal which I made to the country, to cover the expenses of the war, was so well responded to that the result even surpassed our hopes. Our arms have been victorious in the Baltic and in the Black Sea. Two great battles have shed lustre upon our flag. A striking testimony has proved the intimacy of our relations with England. The British Parliament has voted thanks to our Generals and soldiers. A great Empire, reinvigorated by the chivalrous spirit of its Sovereign, has separated itself from the power which for forty years has menaced the independence of Europe. The Emperor of Austria has concluded a treaty, defensive at present, soon perhaps offensive, which unites his cause to that of France and England. Thus, gentlemen, the longer the war continues, the more numerous becomes the number of our allies, and the closer are the bonds already formed. What firmer bonds can there, in fact, be than those bearing the names of victories belonging to the two armies, and recalling a common glory, than the same anxieties and the same hopes agitating the two countries, than the same views and the same intentions animating the two Governments in every corner of the globe?

Thus the alliance with England is not the result of a passing interest and of a policy of circumstance, it is the union of two powerful nations associated together for the triumph of a cause in which, for more than a century, their greatness, the interest of civilization, and at the same time the tranquillity of Europe, have been engaged.

Unite then with me, in this solemn occasion, to thank here, in the name of France, the British Parliament for its cordial and warm demonstration, and the English army and its worthy commander for their valiant coöperation. Next year, if peace should not have been reëstablished, I hope that I shall have to render similar thanks to Germany, the union and prosperity of which we desire. I am happy to pay a just tribute of praise to the army and to the fleet which, by their devotion and discipline, have worthily responded to my expectations, in France, as in Algeria, in the north as in the south. Up to the present moment the army of the East has had to suffer, and has suffered cruelly—dissease, fire, inclemency and privations. A citadel incessantly reprovisioned, defended by a formidable artillery by land and sea. Two hostile armies, superior in numbers, nothing could weaken its courage or impede its impetuosity. Every man has nobly done his duty, from the Marshal who bid death wait till victory had crowned him, down to the privates and sailors, whose last cry in expiring was a prayer for France—an exclamation for the elect of the country. Let us, then, declare together that the army and the fleet have well deserved of their country. War, it is true, entails cruel sacrifices, yet everything commands me to push on with vigor, and with that object in view I count upon your assistance.

The land army consists at present of 581,000 soldiers and 113,000 horses, the navy of 62,000 sailors on board ship.

It is indispensable to keep up this effective force. To fill up the vacancies caused by annual liberations and war, I shall request from you, as I did last year, a levy of 140,000 men, and a bill will be to ameliorate (without increasing the expenses of the treasury) the condition of the soldiers who will rengage. It will afford immense advantages by increasing the number of old soldiers in the army, and by diminishing the oppression of conscription. This bill will, I hope, soon have your approbation.

I shall ask your authority to conclude a new national loan. Doubtless such a measure will increase the national debt, but let it not be forgotten that, by my conversion of the rente, the interest of that debt has been reduced twenty-one millions and a half. My efforts have been directed to place the expenses on a footing with the receipts, and the ordinary budget will be presented to you balanced. The resources of the loan alone will suffice for the expenses of the war.

You will see with pleasure that our revenues have not diminished. Commercial activity is maintained—all the great works of public utility are continued, and Providence has deigned to grant us a harvest which will satisfy all our wants.

Government, nevertheless, does not shut its eyes to the distress occasioned by the high price of provisions, and has taken every measure in its power to provide against this distress and to relieve it. New sources of labor have been created in many districts.

The struggle which is going on, circumscribed by moderation and justice, while it makes the heart beat, nevertheless alarms so little the interests, that shortly an assembly will be held here from all parts of the globe, with the products of peace. Strangers will be struck by the remarkable spectacle of a country, which, counting on Divine Providence, maintains with energy a war 600 leagues from its frontiers, and which at the same time, with equal zeal, developes its internal riches—a country which does not prevent agriculture and industry from prospering, the arts from flourishing, and where the genius of the nation reveals itself in everything which tends to the glory of France.

The Emperor's speech was frequently interrupted by acclamations, and terminated amid repeated cries of "*Vive l'Empereur!*" Immediately thereafter the newly appointed Senators and Deputies took the oath. The session was declared formally opened, and the Emperor and Empress quitted the hall, under a salute of artillery.

The English papers exhaust all their terms of eulogy in praising the Emperor's speech. Even the London *Daily News*—the ultra-liberal (radical) organ—says, "NAPOLEON rises to the level of the situation. His language is the language of a true statesman. His speech is characterized by an eloquence as powerful as that of the first of his name, and infinitely more chaste and dignified."

All the Paris journals published the speech without comment, excepting the *Siècle*, which says, that the friendly sentiments expressed towards England 'have the approbation of France; and trusts that the gracious words respecting the Emperor of Austria may have their due influence on his decision. The London *Times* mixes the sweets and bitters of its criticism; says the speech is, on the whole, "firm, clear and decided;" takes the opportunity to say that the English alliance is not an alliance with the BONAPARTE family, but with France, under whatever government; and concludes by advising the Emperor to accord greater publicity to matters of politics. The remarks of the other London papers call for no special notice.

Complimentary letters have been exchanged between M. DROUYN DE LHUYS and the British Ambassador at Paris respecting the British vote of thanks to the French army.

The Bank of France has declared a dividend of 62 francs on last six months of 1854.

The *Moniteur* publishes the convention between France and Hayti, dated 1st October last, for reimbursement of the Haytien loan of 1825.

A madman fired a pistol at Gen. ROSTOLAN in the street at Marseilles. The ball missed the General, but struck an aid-de-camp in the leg.

The Emperor's speech slightly depressed the funds, both French and British.

The Five Hundred Million Loan.

On the 27th, the Legislative Body unanimously adopted the bill authorizing the Minister of Finance to negotiate a new loan of 500,000,000 francs. Two hundred and forty-one members were present when the bill was voted. On the evening of the 28th, the whole Assembly met at the Tuileries, and presented the bill to the Emperor.

The French Emperor—His Speech—State of the Empire.

From the London Times, Dec. 28.

Although the existing Legislative Body of France may be said to represent the Government rather than the nation, and the appeal addressed to its patriotism and its wisdom has not the same force as if it were made to the independent representatives of the people, the annual convocation of this assembly is important, inasmuch as it affords to the Emperor of the French a solemn opportunity of stating his policy and his intentions to the country which has elected him to be its ruler. On the present occasion the language of the Speech from the Throne is peculiarly firm, clear and energetic. In its form it obviously resembles the addresses delivered on similar occasions by the first NAPOLEON to the Legislative Bodies of the Empire rather than the cautious Ministerial compositions introduced under the representative system of government, and its object is attained if it strengthens the confidence of the country in its Imperial Ruler.

It is impossible to speak in a more vigorous style of the prosecution of the war, or in more handsome and cordial terms of the alliance of France with this country. The thanks recently voted by the British Parliament to the French army have been promptly acknowledged by the Sovereign in whose name those gallant troops are now contending side by side with her Majesty's forces, and the exploits of both armies have been worthily acknowledged by the Allied Powers, each being not less eager to do justice to the prowess of the other than to the valor of its own troops. Whatever may be the perils and uncertainties of such a struggle—assailed as the Allied armies have been by pestilence, by fire, by storms, by the inclemency of the season, and by a powerful enemy—this much is certain, that the political alliance which was the basis and origin of this great enterprise continues to gain strength by the obstacles it has to encounter and to surmount, and that, in the words of the Emperor, "The alliance with England is not the result of any transitory interest, but the union of two powerful States engaged on behalf of the interests of civilization and the independence of Europe." The consequence has been that the principles of this alliance are everywhere gaining ground, and that the progressive adoption of the same cause by Austria is announced by the Emperor in terms which warrant the strongest expectation of her complete coöperation. Prussia is passed over in silence, but an ingenious and courteous allusion is made to the union and prosperity of Germany, as included in the objects of the Allies.

The military forces of France are stated by the Emperor to amount to 581,000 men and 113,000 horses, and the crews of the fleet to 62,000 seamen afloat—a force certainly capable of carrying on with the greatest activity a war which is at present directed to only one point of the enemy's territories, and which requires no extraordinary precautions or efforts in any other quarter. The army which France has hitherto conveyed to the Crimea, and maintained there, probably does not far exceed one-tenth part of her military resources, and, as the difficulties of transporting troops to the seat of war are more actively surmounted, we cannot doubt that means will be found to raise the number of troops under the command of General CANROBERT to 100,000. The conscription for the year will be 140,000 men, a number not more than sufficient to keep up the present effective strength of the army; but legislative measures are to be taken to encourage soldiers already entitled to their discharge, who form the most valuable part of the army, to continue in the ranks beyond their regular period of service. The expenses of the campaign are to be defrayed by a new loan, which will amount, it is generally supposed, to 20 millions sterling; and the Emperor accompanies this announcement by the somewhat singular declaration, that "Resources obtained by loan are exclusively to defray the cost of the war."

Among the more significant characteristics of this address, we observe the entire omission of any allusion to the probability of negotiations for the restoration of peace, although the period of time has not yet elapsed during which, according to the terms of the Treaty of the 2d of December, some propositions of this nature might be supposed to be under consideration. But the policy and intentions of the Emperor of Russia are to be judged of, not by the declarations of Prince GORTSCHAKOFF at Vienna, or Baron BUDBERG at Berlin, so much as by the measures of the Court of St. Petersburg itself. The real answer of the Czar to the Treaty of the 2d of December is to be found in the publication of the ukase, raising a twelfth levy of 10 men in the 1,000 throughout the eastern provinces of the Empire, which is computed to add 220,000 recruits to the Imperial armies for the campaign of 1856, if the war should still be prolonged. Such are the preparations with which Russia arms herself to carry on this struggle, and the Sovereign of France appears to have felt that it would be puerile to express hopes of the speedy restoration of peace while the enemy has not only made no sincere advances for that object, but evidently prepares to carry on hostilities on a more extended scale.

The results of the debates in our own Parliament, of the measures taken by the British Government, of the emphatic language of the Emperor of the French, and of the propositions addressed in his name to the French Legislature, all lead to the same conclusion—that, unless a very unforeseen and improbable turn be speedily given to the affairs of Europe, the year which is about to open will bring with it events of far greater magnitude than any we have hitherto witnessed. The termination of this war by a signal victory over the cause in which it originated, is becoming every day a matter of concern to the whole civilized portion of mankind, and we are contending mainly to deprive Russia of the means of inflicting these calamities upon us. We hope to obtain that object by the combined force and political influence of the leading States of Western and Central Europe. The league which has been formed to accomplish this purpose is at once the pledge of its success and the test of our sincerity; for it is by a strict adherence to the true objects of the alliance that we can alone hope to perpetuate it. For these reasons we receive every fresh assurance of the steady adherence of the French Government to the Union with England with the strongest satisfaction, and it cannot be doubted that the policy in which the two countries are engaged, as well as their permanent relations of amity, will be powerfully confirmed by the common efforts and sacrifices we are making. Other statesmen besides those who now govern France have pledged themselves to the English alliance, and, indeed, no Minister conducted the foreign affairs of that country under the last reign who did not make a good understanding with this country the ostensible basis of his policy; but the effects of the alliance were for the most part confined to diplomatic assurances and Parliamentary declarations, and when it came to action, both in the Spanish question of 1836 and in the Eastern question of 1839, Louis PHILIPPE resisted their direct coöperation with the British Government. That coöperation, from the political causes of the difference which subsequently arose, and which existed at times to less or a greater extent during the administration of the Emperor NAPOLEON in his relations with this country is that he has not hesitated to act up to the principles of the alliance, and has thus obtained from this country in return a degree of confidence which we have seldom accorded to our foreign allies, and which has been still more seldom justified and repaid.

At the same time, as we are allied not to this or that form of government in France, but with the French nation, and we have testified our readiness to maintain the most amicable relations with that country under the Constitutional Monarchy, under the Republic, and under the Empire, it is a misrepresentation of our policy to connect it with any existing institutions which may regulate the internal government of France. In the present state of affairs these are not questions which call for any notice on our part, and we are content to receive them as the result of a long series of revolutions and the universal suffrage of the French people. But we may take the liberty to remark, that the contest in which we are now engaged is one of so national a character to France as well as to England, that the true strength of the Government cannot but be increased in proportion to the freedom enjoyed by the nation in the discussion of these exciting topics. War cannot be carried on with effect by any State without the hearty concurrence of the nation, and the measures of the French Government, in conjunction with its allies, would doubtless have received even more energetic support from the country, if they could be discussed with greater independence by the members of the Legislative Body and by the press. The speech of the Emperor of the French at the opening of another session has invited this discussion by an appeal to the representatives of France for the supplies necessary to carry on a great war. Three weeks ago the British Parliament was summoned for a similar purpose, and all Europe rang with the eloquent declarations of men of all parties in support of the cause of this and all other civilized nations. Under whatever rule an Assembly may be convoked in France, we look forward with equal confidence to the eloquence and patriotism of its members, but its power over the nation is proportioned to the freedom of its debates. The Foreign policy of the French Government has in reality everything to gain by the utmost publicity, and a ruler who can with so much justice boast of the services he has rendered to the internal condition of the country, and of the vigor with which he upholds her influence in Europe, stands in no need of the measures of extreme restriction which were introduced on the morrow of a revolution.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Mission to England.

High expectations were formed of the mission of Count VON USEDOM, who, it may be remembered, recently arrived in London, charged, it was said, with a message from the Cabinet of Berlin. The general opinion was that M. USEDOM was instructed to make offer, on the part of Prussia, to enter into a separate treaty with the Western Powers, which should possess the advantage without the drawback of Prussia's adhering to the treaty of Vienna. No indications having transpired of any such mission, it is now surmised that M. USEDOM was merely the bearer of an autograph letter to Queen VICTORIA, and that his instructions are merely to watch, on the spot, the course of events. This, however, may be a supposition equally erroneous.

Prussia—Her Envoy and Policy.

From the London Times, Dec. 27.

If the objects of M. VON USEDOM's mission to this country were confined to the transmission of certain communications from the Court of Berlin to the Western Powers, in the hope of inducing them to enter into separate engagements with Prussia, or of limiting the extent of the resolutions in which Austria has already concurred, a very short time would probably suffice to satisfy the Prussian emissary, who is an intelligent man, that he could hardly have arrived at a less fortunate moment for the King's purpose. We suspect, however, that this gentleman is the bearer of no such instructions, and that in visiting England he merely brings an autograph letter to the Queen, and is desired to observe the real state of affairs. Prussia has already placed herself so far in the rear of the policy of the other great Powers of Europe, that she has no claim to be heard on the present state of these questions until she has adopted the principles which now form the basis of the Triple Alliance of England, France and Austria; and there is not the slightest disposition on the part of any of these Powers to suspend the operations or the political measures they would otherwise take in order to suit the convenience of a Court which has shown so little disposition to carry on its former engagements to their legitimate consequences. The effect of M. VON USEDOM's mission in this country and in France will therefore be absolutely null and void; and the journey of Colonel VON MANTEUFFEL to Vienna will probably be equally bootless. Nevertheless, there is one point of view in which these missions may perchance be productive of some benefit to the common cause. M. VON USEDOM is a man of independent character and position, attached to the Parliamentary party, and favorable to the policy of the Western Powers; he took his instructions for this mission not from the Government, who justly regard him as a sincere and formidable opponent, but from the King, who has confidence in his fidelity and discernment. It is, moreover, no slight triumph of the political views so long and so ably represented in this country by Chevalier BUNSEN, that, on the first emergency, Prussia sends to England a man who is known to have been reared in the same liberal faith, and to be as steadily attached to the same cause. For these reasons M. VON USEDOM has been received in this country with a degree of confidence which few other diplomatic agents of Prussia could have obtained. Upon his return he will therefore have an opportunity of informing the mind of the King on some points which have hitherto been entirely obscure and impenetrable to the Royal perceptions. He will tell His Majesty that this war is waged by the whole British nation, without distinction of parties, because we believe it to be a war for the defence of right, for the chastisement of wrong, and for the safety of Europe. He will assure him that, although we have no secret objects or sinister motives in conducting this war the Queen of England and her people will never be content with less than the objects and securities they have pledged themselves to obtain. He will add that, although the losses already sustained by us have been severe, and are severely felt by the whole community in this country, yet that there lives not in this land a man so base as to set his private sacrifices or private griefs against the call of public duty; and he may wind up his report by an intimation that the readiness of the country to carry on the war against Russia is not greater than their astonishment that the Government of Prussia should occupy a position so unworthy of the successor of FREDERICK THE GREAT, and of the people whom Mr. COBDEN terms "the brain of Germany."

It matters little what M. VON USEDOM may have to say here, for the allied Governments have already contracted reciprocal engagements, and have a systematic policy of their own. But the result of this mission may not be unfelt at Berlin, where the Government is under no engagements to any one, and has, as yet, no policy. In speaking of the Government of Prussia, we mean at present that cabal of time-serving Ministers and influential chamberlains who have mainly contributed to place their country in its present situation, because they have the interests of a foreign power more nearly at heart than those of Germany and of Prussia. The King is, after all, a well-meaning man, anxious to be well with all the world—as good a talker and as learned a King as our JAMES I., and almost as brave. We wish him well, for we wish him better Ministers and truer friends. But with the GERLACHS, and GROSSERS, and MANTEUFFELS, we know no peace. They are the heads or the instruments of a party which must be eradicated from the soil before the King of Prussia can be the ruler of an independent realm, and of a proud and contented people. The confidence placed in these men by the Emperor of Russia, who knows that, as long as they have the power, they will hold the North of Germany in check, is one of the principal causes of the war, for it encourages the enemy to rely on their assistance, as the declaration made the other day by M. DE GERLACH in the Diet showed that enmity with Russia is the basis of their policy. The King, we are ready to believe, is less indifferent to the good opinion and good will of this country. He shares our religious faith, he is attached to the English Royal family, and in happier times he cultivated our alliance. We have done nothing to forfeit his regard, but the sycophants about him have continued to alienate him from his best friends, and it must be by his own actions alone that he can regain the sympathy which is now interrupted.

Among the delusions prevalent in Berlin as to the present state of feeling in the other capitals of Europe, there seems to be a notion in certain quarters that by holding aloof from the Western Powers and from the Austrian alliance, Prussia will obtain favorable terms, and will induce the other Powers to bid for her support by some further concessions to her ambition or her advantage. Thus, it is a speedy result of this policy we could be induced to propose, for instance, the abolition of the Sound dues, which are in reality for a public debt held to a large extent in this country; or if we would respect the Treaties of 1852, to which the guns are pointed on the Danube, or consent to detach Holstein from the Danish monarchy, Prussia might be induced to lend a more favorable ear to the proposals of the Western Powers. We really hope that these impressions are made without sufficient reasoning; for, if anything could increase the unfavorable impression which the conduct of the Russian Government has produced abroad, it would be the conviction that the Cabinet of Berlin is speculating on the difficulties of Europe to promote its private objects. If that duty to Germany and to Europe does not speak high enough to prescribe the course she ought to pursue, it would be ruin for us to solicit her "active coöperation in the common cause" on any other terms.

As long as the King is surrounded by his present advisers this confession is inevitable. All Europe knows that no communication can be made to the Court of Berlin which is not immediately transmitted to St. Petersburg for the information of the Czar. To such lengths has this treachery been carried that when Gen. BONIN, as Minister of War, had prepared a scheme of military operations for the Prussian army on the eastern frontier of the kingdom, with a view to the possibility of a future war with Russia, this secret paper, of which only three copies were in existence, was conveyed to the Emperor of Russia, and the person who committed this act of treason to his country, or we must call it, was either a great officer of State or a member of the King's own family. After such an occurrence as that, it is manifestly impossible that foreign Governments should enter into confidential negotiations with a Court in which the slightest possession of the summer easter still exercise an undiminished ascendancy; and the first condition of the restitution of Prussia to the position she has relinquished will be the formation of a Government in that country not identified with the cause to which we are opposed. The King of Prussia, apparently declines to adhere to the treaty of the 2d of December, because he thinks it beneath his dignity to follow in the track of the three other powers. But is it more consistent with his dignity to be put aside altogether in the greatest struggle which Europe has witnessed since 1813, or to be represented by Ministers whose fidelity to the interests of their country is dubious and discredited? The treaty concluded by Austria and the Western Powers has already had the effect of demonstrating to the King of Prussia that in his present position he cannot remain, and we trust the mission of M. VON USEDOM to this country is a step towards a more definite and trustworthy policy

CITY REFORMS.

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF MAYOR WOOD.

Recommendations Concerning Departments.

RECOMMENDS TOUCHING PAUPERS.

City Railroad Cars to be More Heavily Taxed.

Police—Elections—Central Park—Public Buildings.

LETTER TO PRESIDENT PIERCE.

Mayor Wood last evening transmitted to the Board of Aldermen the following Special Message—its length making amends for the remarkable brevity of his Inaugural. There are various recommendations in regard to the Departments of the City Government. The Message is worth reading attentively:

To the Honorable the Common Council of the City of New-York:

GENTLEMEN: In my communication to your Honorable Body, on the first instant, I purposely omitted many recommendations, and subjects of interest, and promised that as soon as you were organized, and ready for business, they would be made.

It is the duty of the Mayor to communicate to the Common Council, at least once in each year, a statement of affairs of the City. In pursuance of this duty, and of the promise made by me, I submit this communication.

The annual Annual Reports from the Executive Departments have been several days before you, and, no doubt, thoroughly examined. In taking a survey of the affairs of the City, the first object to present is the condition of the finances. A statement with reference to it is herewith furnished.

Permanent City Debt, redeemable from the Sinking Fund, Jan. 1, 1855:

6 per cent. Water Stock, redeemable 1858	$3,000,000
6 per cent. Water Stock, redeemable 1860	2,500,000
6 per cent. Water Stock, redeemable 1870	3,000,000
5 per cent. Water Stock, redeemable 1875	250,000
5 per cent. Water Stock, redeemable 1880	2,147,000
6 and 5 per cent. Croton Water Stock	
7 per cent. Water Loan, redeemable 1857	990,489
6 per cent. Public Building Stock, redeemable 1858	515,000
5 per cent. Building Loan Stock, No. 1, redeemable 1870	75,000
5 per cent. Building Loan Stock, No. 4, redeemable 1873	75,000
5 per cent. Fire Indemnity Stock, redeemable 1868	402,768
Total	$13,900,856

Corporation Stocks and Bonds held by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, on account of the redemption of the City Debt $4,323,963

Additional assets (bonds and mortgages) held by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund 911,898

Balance in Bank Jan. 1, 1855 ..... 17,340 — 5,181,415

Actual amount of permanent debt, Jan. 1, 1855, say $8,779,441

Funded debt redeemable from taxation, and payable (with the exception of Public Education Stock,) in annual installments of $50,000, January 1, 1855:

6 per cent. Building Loan Stock, No. 2, redeemable in 1855 and 1856	$100,000
5 per cent. Public Building Stock, No. 3, redeemable in 1857 and 1858	400,000
6 per cent. Stock for Docks and Slips, redeemable in 1867 and 1876	500,000
5 per cent. Public Education Stock, redeemable in 1878	156,000
Total amount of Funded Debt, Jan. 1, 1855	$1,156,000

which is an increase, as compared with the amount of debt, January 1, 1854, of $50,000.

The revenues of the Sinking Fund, for the payment of interest on the City Debt, are fully adequate for the payment of interest on the above Stocks. The balance to this account, January 1, 1855, being $90,000, invested temporarily in Revenue Bonds of the City Corporation, and cash in Bank $217,100 11, thus rendering it unnecessary to raise any amount for "Interest on City Debts" by taxation.

In connection with this statement another is presented, of the sums to which have been raised, by taxation from 1844 to 1854, inclusive:

1844	$2,808,810 56	1850	3,820,083 02
1845	2,626,101 85	1851	3,964,455 94
1846	2,599,176 71	1852	3,926,611 05
1847	2,881,776 30	1853	4,067,875 09
1848	2,715,810 25	1854	4,945,726 07
1849	3,005,782 52		

And to be raised in 1855 ..... $5,016,502 35

By this it will appear that the expenditures have gradually and steadily increased, though it is well known that the character of our Government has deteriorated.

The people of this City cannot realize that the actual cost of conducting their municipal affairs amounts to the sum annually expended. They do not believe that all of the money appropriated is devoted to public wants. In my opinion, an examination of the subject, and close scrutiny of the various items composing the accounts of the disbursing officers, will show that it is the undue, unnecessary, extraordinary charge, without adequate equivalent, that have swollen our taxes to their present enormous amount.

It behooves us, as guardians of the public interests, to look to the subject. If it is longer permitted, we are participes criminis, whether the money is spent under our own eyes or not. Besides greater caution in appropriations, we are called upon to exercise greater vigilance over, and demand severer accountability from those who spend the money. The smallest items of expenditures should be guarded as sacredly as if amounting to thousands of thousands. The principle which will palsy a disbursing officer to divert the value of one dollar, in money or property, to his own or his friend's purse, will, in time, prevent the abstraction of a million.

The taxes can, and must, be reduced in some ways; several present sources of expenditure can be abolished entirely, and large sums be brought into the treasury, which now go to the pockets of individuals.

THE STREETS.

The great openings and enlargements heavy outlays for that purpose in regulating, grading, paving, sewering, repairing, &c., are one of the heaviest burdens we bear. It is no answer to reply that much of it is returned to the treasury by assessments upon the property benefited; it is of little importance to the party who pays, whether the money is procured from him, under pretext of adding to the value of his real estate, or whether under the plea of supporting the Government.

We have no right to make distinction. It is our duty to protect the private property of the people, as well as their public treasury. As now conducted, the public business appertaining to streets, is under the direction of six of the Departments, besides several outside Commissioners, Inspectors, Surveyors, Appraisers and other temporary officers, appointed by the Mayor, and if they do, they know nothing of it, or do not wish to know, provided the contractor is a clever fellow, and does it when he right.

These departments frequently come in conflict with each other; it sometimes happens that they are nearly engaged at the same time, upon same part of the same street. Workers scarcely finish one, before the paving is completed, it is taken up to lay down a sewer, Croton water or gas pipes. Each department being independent, no consultation is had with other bureaus, but every one upon its own responsibility, proceeds to do what is deems best without thinking or caring of expense of public discommodation.

It is no exaggeration to say that sometimes twenty officials, belonging to different departments are engaged in doing at the same time that which could be accomplished by one man, if acting for himself, in one-twentieth the time and at one-twentieth the cost.

Each department is its own master, and does upon its own volition, without consent or consultation, and not unfrequently serves to thwart the plans of each other, and produce conflict. Every person having the control of private business or interest on one, without further comment, the reason why so large a sum is expended upon our streets.

The business-care, concentration, uniformity and regularity so essential to the success of any enterprise, is entirely wanting.

A general cutting-up and distribution of authority, creating irresponsibility and negligence, is productive of prodigacy in expenditure and inefficiency in the performance of work. This alone must be reformed. It has become too serious to be postponed longer.

The little time which has been left me for investigation, consistent with other duties, has satisfied me that the whole business should be entirely under the control of one department, and at least one of the existing departments could be abolished entirely. There should be a Staten Department having sole jurisdiction over the whole subject; some part of the duty could be advantageously given to other departments, without detriment or additional expense.

There should be a permanent Board of Commissioners, instead of three for each job as now, which should have the power to appoint permanent surveyors for the whole City, instead of one for each work as now. It should be made the duty of the law officer of the Corporation, to give his services without any additional compensation, directly or indirectly, and if receiving fees, the amount should be paid into the treasury.

There should be one or two permanent inspectors for the whole City, provided any is required, which I doubt, instead of one for each job, as now. The duties now performed by the Bureau of Assessments should be done by the present Board of Tax Commissioners, without additional compensation, who have not only sufficient leisure, but the surveys, maps, and the assessed values of every improved and unimproved lot in the City within their own office, by which to facilitate the duty. The collection of assessments should be made by the Receiver of Taxes.

That branch of the service coming under the head of repairs should be severely scrutinized, and every dollar accounted for under the most stringent rules of accountability, and nothing should be expended except upon previous appropriation, with specific reference to the object for which the money was intended. The inconveniences and delays which would attend previous appropriations upon detailed estimates, for even small sums could be of little consideration as compared with the principle of unauthorized expenditure with the official profligacy which too often follows in its train.

TAXABLE PROPERTY.

Another matter of much importance is the feasibility of enlarging the basis upon which to levy tax. The Board of Tax Commissioners organized a few years since, has added much to the taxable basis of real and personal estate. There is yet room for increase.

Notwithstanding the vigilance of these officers and the assessors, a very large amount of personal property escapes, and an undue proportion is consequently put upon real estate. A distinction is thus created entirely unjust to real property, calculated not only to affect its value, but to retard the growth of the City. There is no solid reason why distinction should be made in the kind of value, whether real or personal, upon which we levy tax. So long as the principle of taxation is upon property, all property should bear alike.

Besides the large amount of personal estates that escapes in consequence of the inability to discover it, there are immense amounts belonging to foreign manufacturers and traders, in the hands of agents resident here, who refuse to recognize our authority to collect. A very large sum thus gets clear.

This foreign property receives all the protection which the City Government affords, in common with that of our own people, which pays the expense.

These foreign owners not only enjoy equal privileges with native citizens, but in not paying taxes upon their property, possess an exemption which enables them to compete with American labor, and affording them undue advantages.

People who pay taxes cannot sell merchandise as low as those who pay none. Means should be taken during the present session of the Legislature to procure the passage of a law, making the property of foreign manufacturers and others liable to taxation.

ABOLITION OF FEES.

As a further means of revenue, I recommend an application to the Legislature for a law which will bring into the treasury the large sums now received by the Register, County Clerk, Counsel to the Corporation, Corporation Attorney, and other county officers, who receive fees as their own perquisites.

In some instances these sums are said to amount to from $20,000 to $30,000 per annum to one person. While it is right that every public officer should be sufficiently compensated, yet there can be no good reason for permitting a few to amass large fortunes, while other officials, who perform more labor and more responsible duties, are paid one-fifth the sum, and the whole community is burdened with taxes. Give liberal salaries, but let all fees go to the treasury.

INTEREST TO BE CHARGED.

A further relief may be found in requiring interest on deposits with the City Treasurer, and collecting and disbursing officers generally. The equity, practicability and importance of that measure is so apparent, that it surprises me it has not sooner been adopted. A very large revenue could be thus derived. There was to the credit of the City in the hands of the Treasurer on the 30th of November, 1854, over one million of dollars; the 1st December, 1854, over one and a half millions, from which was drawn on those dates about a half million, leaving about two millions to the credit of the City. Additional large sums have since been drawn, leaving however on the first of January, instant, a balance, remaining to the credit of the City of one million two hundred and eighty-three thousand four hundred and seventy-four dollars, for which the City receives no allowance of interest whatever.

It is proper to add that it frequently occurs that the City Chamberlain is in advance to the City, and that during the last year he advanced $20,000 to $60,000, on claims on the Treasury, for which warrants could not be given. Thus offering facilities to individuals, having claims, who otherwise would be obliged to wait the slow process of legislation, to be paid their just dues. Notwithstanding, however, this accommodating disposition upon the part of this officer, I can see no reason for conducting the financial affairs of the City upon any other principle than that which governs the commercial intercourse of individuals.

I am satisfied that the nearest we approximate the laws of trade, the better will public business be conducted, and the interests of the Treasury protected.

The City is obliged to pay interest, when using the funds of individuals, and it should receive interest from individuals who have the use of its money.

Last year the Comptroller borrowed upon Revenue Bonds, three millions six hundred and ninety-three thousand dollars, nearly the whole of which was borrowed at the rate of seven per centum, and for which we are still paying interest, notwithstanding the large amount now lying to the credit of the City in bank. How long could an individual or a banking institution retain its credit or its capital, that conducted its affairs upon so ruinous a principle? The State of New-York discovered the value of its own revenues when laying in bank-vaults, as early as 1826. It then adopted the policy of requiring interest upon its canal funds, which has been followed since, without deviation. My last advices from the Capital state, that two millions and a half of dollars, have been already received from that source, *for interest exclusively, on the deposite of this fund with* the banks. And it is well known that some of the heads of the City collecting and disbursing bureaux, have been in the practice of receiving interest from various City Banks, on the public money in their hands, which has gone into their own pockets as private perquisites.

In recommending a revenue from this source, I beg to be understood that no step should be taken in effecting it which would in the least jeopard the security of the money. Security is the first consideration.

A prudent business man never hazards his principal in efforts to accumulate interest; but if safety and profit can be combined, and in my judgment it can be, we should be largely the gainers, and to that extent taxes lessened.

ESTIMATES AND APPROPRIATIONS.

Another object of importance, by which large sums now extracted from the treasury could be saved, is the necessity of adopting some mode by which all disbursing officers shall be prevented from the expenditure of money, or creation of obligations to pay, for which the City is liable, without previous appropriation and a balance unexpended to meet it.

Many abuses have grown up under the present loose manner of expending money.

It is useless to ask the Departments for estimates upon which to base the appropriation, if they are disregarded afterward. So long as the Common Council pass resolutions incurring expense, and the Departments execute them, frequently by using funds appropriated for other purposes, so long will our taxes continue to increase, and the enormous annual deficiencies, now so common, continue to startle us at the end of the year.

Means should be taken to stop this altogether; the head of a department should not be allowed to exceed his own estimates, or the appropriation made; he and his bonds should be made responsible to the City, for any liability thus incurred.

Disbursing officers must be confined within the spirit, as well as the letter of the Charter, which provides that no money shall be drawn from the City Treasury, except the same shall have been previously appropriated to the purpose for which it is drawn.

An honest version of this provision makes it applicable to the creation of an obligation, to be liquidated out of subsequent appropriation, as it is to that directly referred to.

SURPLUSED SALES FOR TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS.

You should also take measures to collect about seven hundred and fifty dollars from this suspended sales for taxes and assessments, which can be obtained upon the necessary legislative action empowering the Comptroller to proceed. The sum is sufficiently large to demand your immediate attention.

CONTRACTS.

The present mode of making contracts is defective. Notwithstanding the improvement of late years, in exciting more publicity, in opening bids, and in guarding against fraudulent combinations in giving contracts, yet it is supposed much wrong still exists. There is no doubt that frauds are still perpetrated in this branch of the public service. Bids are frequently put in in the names of fictitious persons, ranging from a high, to a low estimate—jobbers standing ready to take advantage of an embarrassment to the department, owing to the non-appearance of some fair bidder, for no per the contract at the highest possible limits. Again it is the practice to put in only bids, not with the expectation of making and performing the contract, but one higher than that of any responsible party, who has been under-bid. Various other ways, the details of which are known, only to the initiated are in vogue, by which to defraud the treasury. If the head of a department acts in collusion with these outsiders, it is next to impossible to prevent frauds under the present system.

One of the best safeguards may be found in more general publicity, in offering to receive proposals. The expense of advertising is of no importance, as compared with the benefit to be derived therefrom.

The object of offering public proposals to make contracts, is to invite competition and prevent the high prices, which monopoly produces; it is defeated if the advertisements are published in obscure papers, unknown to, and unread by the mass of the people.

Too much publicity cannot be given to the offering of contracts. The expense of general advertising will be more than made up by the increased bidding and consequent reduced prices.

CITY RAILROADS AND OMNIBUSES.

I also recommend the taxation of City railroad cars. It appears to me that these Companies should pay at least one hundred dollars license upon each car, besides keeping the streets and avenues through which their tracks are laid in complete repair, and always clean.

The City Government receives no equivalent for the privileges these companies possess, which are now very valuable. So far as rail-travel in this City can affect them, the present roads may be said to have a monopoly. A recent State law secures their grants, and in effect precludes opposition or annoyance; they occupy, to the exclusion of all other citizens, the centre of our best business avenues.

Exclusive privileges are always to be deprecated, but when granted, the City should in return receive an ample pecuniary equivalent. A revenue of $40,000 could be procured from this source, besides the saving of the very heavy cost of repairing and cleaning the thoroughfares.

The omnibuses should also keep in repair and clean the streets through which they pass, or pay into the Treasury a sufficient sum for that purpose.

These vehicles do more injury to the pavements than all the rest of the travel together, and the City in return receives no pecuniary benefit from them for that purpose whatever. The existing lines of omnibuses are well secured in their privilege, having, by the law of 1854, made it so difficult to procure licenses for competing lines, that they now enjoy almost a monopoly. How far the out-town railroadcars, entering the City, are subject to municipal regulations, I am not at this time enabled to advise; my opinion, however, is that there is nothing in their charters entitling them to exception from any tax, which you may deem a fair equivalent for the right of way they possess.

If upon consultation with the counsel of the Corporation, there be no legal obstacle, I make the same recommendation as to a car tax, and the cleaning and repairs of the avenues and streets through which they pass, as made with reference to the City Railroads.

EMIGRANTS.

It is well known that for many years extortions and oppressions of the most inhuman character have been practised upon the emigrants coming to this port.

There appears to be a series of organized classes of persons, all connected, and acting from a common impulse of plunder, who take and keep possession of their victims as long as a single cent is left to rob them of. These vampires form a cordon, stretching from Sandy Hook to the lakes, and to the far West.

They act in concert, with a well formed understanding, and spend large sums to protect themselves from detection and punishment. Common humanity, as well as the honor and prosperity of this City and State, call for more stringent laws and regulations governing our whole emigrant system. I regret that this, already too lengthy communication, prevents more extended comments upon this branch of the subject, consistent with others demanding attention.

Much inconvenience to the shipping interest is caused by the present mode of landing emigrant passengers.

As now conducted it is a serious evil, not only to the passengers, but also to the vessels from which they land, and to other vessels with which they materially interfere. This is a most evil calling for some action as your hands—as now conducted it is productive of great hardship to the emigrant and injury to others.

Now a ship arrives from sea with her decks crowded with hundreds of men, women, and children, and hauls outside and alongside another vessel at her berth, discharging or taking in cargo, which may be composed of fine goods in valuable packages.

As soon as the emigrant ship nears the wharf she is boarded by an army of runners, cartmen and others, having business with, and too often design upon her passengers, and the passengers are dragged over the vessel discharging, to the shore; her cargo, which may be on deck, or upon the dock, is not only materially injured, the packages soiled, broken or stolen, but an embargo is laid upon *all work for the time being. Thus a* serious injury is inflicted. This evil has grown to be intolerable. The remedy is very simple. One or two piers should be set aside, away from the pressure of shipping, and exclusively devoted to the landing of emigrant passengers. They should be inclosed, and only persons properly clothed with authority and of good character be permitted within the inclosure. The police should be stationed there to protect and direct the emigrants, and as the boarding-houses and forwarding offices would of course locate in the vicinity, the emigrant would be benefited, as well as the present injury to other shipping entirely removed. These suggestions are worth attention, and, I hope, will be acted upon.

It has long been the practice of many Governments on the continent of Europe, to get rid of convicts and paupers by sending them to this country, and most generally to this port. The increase of crime here can be traced to this cause rather than to defect in the criminal laws, or their administration. An examination of the criminal and pauper records, shows conclusively, that it is but a small proportion of these unfortunates who are natives of this country. One of the very heaviest burdens we bear is the support of these people, even when considering the direct cost; but when estimating the evil influences upon society, and the contaminating effect upon all who come within the range of their depraved minds, it becomes a matter exceedingly serious, and demanding immediate and complete eradication. I know no subject of more importance; certainly we have no power to protect this City against the landing of so vile an addition to our population; the health, as well as the life and property of the people for whom you legislate, requires some action at your hands. I am confident the General Government will listen to any representations from you, relating to it, and interpose its national authority in our behalf. On the 2d instant I made this grievance the subject of an official communication to the President of the United States, a copy of which is enclosed, marked A.

The constantly increasing expenses of the Almshouse Department, and the want of control of the Corporation over them, should not escape your notice. I am satisfied, that whatever may be thought as to the exercise of proper economy upon the part of the Governors of the Almshouse, there can be no doubt that one cause for the present large outlay required is the maintenance of persons who should be a charge upon a fund, under the exclusive control of the Emigrant Commissioners. It is evident that the object of creating this Board was to have full control over the whole subject, and to bear the entire costs of the support of these unfortunate people, at least until they have been here for years in this country. In practice, this appears not to be its operation. At least a portion of the inmates of the institutions under the control of the Almshouse Governors, who are supported by the City, are properly chargeable to the Emigrant Commission. In my opinion the whole subject requires revision. An entire alteration of the present system is absolutely demanded. As it is now, the tax payers of this City have not only to support the poor of the City, and a portion of that belonging to the surrounding country, which find their way here, but also a very large portion of the paupers of every nation in Europe.

The absolute cost of supporting our own poor would be a trifle too small to be worthy of comment; but when required to perform the duty for so many other communities, its burden has become of too great a magnitude to be submitted to longer. The Board of Emigrant Commissioners was created in 1847, to protect and provide for the emigrants arriving at this port; a fund is provided for this purpose. It is a State institution, mostly under the control of officers appointed by the Governor and Senate, and, in all respects, independent of our municipal action. Its existence is a recognition of the position that the persons called emigrants should, in no respect, be a tax upon this county. As now conducted, it is a grievous tax. We support the emigrant sentenced to Blackwell's Island, and other City penal institutions. A large number of policemen are detailed especially for their protection, for which our Treasury pays. The Mayor's office, and no inconsiderable portion of his time are occupied in hearing and determining cases involving the rights and property of emigrants, to say nothing of that branch of his duties relating to the proper licensing and regulating of emigrant boarding-houses and runners. In my opinion the City should be relieved altogether from these duties and expenses. So far as the State assumes to take charge of these people, she should carry out the work entire, we should be relieved from it.

POLICE.

This department of the City Government is placed more directly under the personal supervision of the Mayor than others; and, in assuming its direction with the restricted power as to appointment and removal, which, after all, constitute the great elements of control, I feel much responsibility and concern; its present condition and discipline is susceptible of improvement.

There is an apparent want of energy and efficiency, which must arise from either defect in the system, or want of nerve and vigilance in those who direct it. It shall be my aim to remedy these evil. I shall require the strictest accountability from the men, and also from the several officers, who shall, in all cases, be made responsible for the conduct of the subordinates under their command.

It was thought that making the police hold office during good behavior would remove it entirely from political influences. It may have had such an effect, to a degree; but while the power to appoint, suspend, and remove is political and elective, it will be expecting too much of human nature to suppose that political influence can be excluded altogether.

A perfect police system must be founded upon freedom of all influences, except those produced by merit, arising from a faithful and efficient discharge of duty.

When the generals of an army are periodically subject to change, and in some measure by the votes and influence of the army itself, it will be almost impossible to remove the partisan elements, which, at every election, are necessarily aroused into activity.

The whole Police Board was elected at the late election; two of the late Board (the Recorder and City Judge) being candidates for reélection, and policemen would have been more or less than men, if they could have remained indifferent spectators of the result.

Equally apparent the inability in not the proper authority for determining Police matters, nor are its members qualified, either by habits of life or train of reflection, to sit in judgment upon them. The cause would undoubtedly be benefited by a commission. My only object is to put the present Police Board fully cognizant of these opinions.

It shall be my aim to improve all connected with the police that official merit, and our partisan institutions, in what is expected of them; and so far as my power extends, it shall be exercised to the entire eradication of politics from the Department.

On the 1st of January instant, I issued new orders, a copy of which is annexed, (marked B,) and to which I call your attention, as developing the principles upon which I shall administer the Department. In connection with this subject, it may be proper for me to add that there has been opened in the Mayor's office, under my direction, a book for recording complaints against the police, as well as for violations of the ordinances and laws, where charges will be entertained and acted upon by me in person.

The police are required for several purposes other than the protection of the public interests of the City, for which it should not be obliged to pay.

There is one class of the reserve corps detailed for the duty of boarding vessels from foreign ports, with emigrant passengers, and other service connected, before referred to, which should be paid from the fund of the Emigrant Commissioners. Many other policemen are stationed at the various railroad depots and ferries, and at places of public amusement, by request of the proprietors, and for the protection of their private interests, and not for public purposes. This expense should be borne by the parties requiring their services. In London, where the police system is said to be better than our own, such is the practice; and the General Government has adopted the same course with reference to the salaries of its Custom-House officers, when acting for private conveniences or safety. About thirty thousand dollars would be thus saved.

The expense of the police force has attracted attention, and it has been properly suggested that it can be used for many public purposes, for which the City now pays heavily.

In considering the cost of the Police, it should not be forgotten that it is almost entirely made up of salaries. This department disburses little money, for any other purpose. It makes no contracts and procures no supplies, and is confined to the disbursement of such sums, for compensation to the officers and men, as has been fixed by the Common Council. So it more or less, no officer connected with it is in any way responsible. It is true, that much duty, now performed by subordinates under other departments, can be performed by the Police, without impairing its efficiency. My direction has already been given to the patrolmen to act as inspectors, and to report, through their officers, to me, every instance when the contractor fails to clean the streets within his District. They have also been required to report all excavations made under the sidewalks or streets, by builders or others, the object of which is to supply information to the Commissioner of Streets, by which he can collect the legal claims of the City for appropriating so private use any portion of the streets.

If my recommendation of consolidating all business appertaining to streets into one Department, is carried out, many collateral branches can be put under the Police Department, without any detriment to it whatever.

There is no question that the several duties of policemen are entirely too light, in view of the necessity of materially lessening the number of public officers.

It is for you to legislate upon this recommendation, and you will find me ready to enforce its practical operation.

SPRING CHARTER ELECTION.

I cannot omit expressing my conviction that much benefit could be derived to the City, by separating the election for Charter officers from that for State or National officers.

As now conducted, our local interests are almost entirely lost sight of in the conflict on State or national issues. As the lesser is always absorbed by the greater, so is the apparently smaller affairs of our City Government lost sight of in the contest on candidates for higher offices.

The magnitude of our municipal interests calls for the closest scrutiny into the qualifications of persons to take charge of them, no other considerations than those connected directly with local questions should be included in the canvass for City rulers. The evils of frequent elections are of little importance as compared with the danger of the selection of improper men. In the struggle for a Governor or a President, persons entirely disqualified will sometimes slide unobserved into a local place of trust and power.

The election law, which places the candidates for County officers on the same ballot with candidates for State officers, increases the evil. At the late election there were twelve names on the same ballot; in the haste and excitement of election day, it is very difficult for even the most intelligent voter to select the names for whom he desires to vote when found upon the same ticket; but where the duty is imposed upon the illiterate or ignorant, it is seldom exercised, especially if there be a cunningly devised ballot, not permitting erasure or substitution.

CENTRAL PARK.

The Commissioners appointed to open the Central Park, are progressing with the work—since the organization of the Board, it has been collected and the evil defect of title to the lands to be taken for the park is causing the necessary surveys, maps of blocks and profiles of grades to be made; in personal view of the lands to be taken, and in procuring such information in regard thereto, as may serve to guide to a just valuation of the same; also in determining the area of assessment for special benefit, and procuring maps of the same, and in securing evidence of the value of the improvements on the land to be taken, and are now engaged in the valuation of the lands themselves. It will be remembered that this park is to be bounded south by Fifty-ninth-street, north by One Hundred and Sixth-street, east by the Fifth-avenue, and west by the Eighth-avenue; and will comprehend an area of seven hundred and seventy-six acres, say 776

From which deduct, State reservoir	14
Croton Reservoir	56
Proposed Reservoir	113
Streets and avenues	199
Belonging to the City	34 — 386
Leaving to be paid for—acres	390

6,268 lots to be paid for by the City, and by assessments upon contiguous property. The important question of the valuation of these lots have not as yet been positively fixed by the Commissioners. The subject is now before them, and I believe they are fully impressed with their office. Another question of much public interest, in connection with this matter, is the territorial limit to which the Commissioners shall extend their assessments upon property of individuals, and what proportion of the whole cost shall be made a tax upon the City?

These questions are entirely under the control of the Commissioners. I am informed, unofficially, that the disposition of the Board is to extend the area of assessment three blocks east and west, and a greater distance north and south; and that the balance of the thirty-five cost payable by the City. If this be the determination, it can be easily ascertained about what sum the park will cost. Estimating the average value of the land at $500 per lot—a liberal estimate—the whole cost would be $3,134,000; deduct one-third to be paid by individuals whose property is supposed to be benefited, it will leave $2,089,000 to be paid for by the City—a smaller sum than was anticipated at the time of passing the act. The Commissioners expect to close their duties early in the ensuing Summer. There can be no doubt as to the necessity of some such park conveniently located on this island. In my opinion, future generations, who are to pay this expense, would have good reasons for congratulating on the present generation, if, instead of the entire island to be taken possession of by population without some spot like this, devoted to rural beauty, healthful recreation, and pure atmosphere.

NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

It is to be regretted that we are still without some definite action in this matter. It is a year since the old Almshouse buildings, which for several years served for the purposes of a court-house, were destroyed by fire, and no conclusion has yet been arrived at with reference *to the erection of the substitute. This should be one of* the first measures to receive attention.

The present City Hall and its appendages are insufficient. The accumulation of public business of all kinds has rendered it insufficient, upon this City, regardless of expense, to make provision for it without delay. Many plans for a new City Hall have been proposed, none of which have been examined by me, and of which I am not competent to judge, had they been. I will suggest, however, that inasmuch as the day cannot be far distant when that portion of the city lying south of Grand-street will be entirely occupied by wholesale business, to the exclusion of resident population, and that as a City Hall, to contain the courts and offices for the transaction of the municipal business should be in the vicinity of the numerical centre of population, where it is politic to expend large sums of money in permanent improvements in the Park, as now located. We have no guarantee that the next generation may not demand their removal to a more convenient position. There can be no doubt that public offices, to which all classes, without distinction, are drawn, should be equally accessible to the whole population.

Nor can I recommend the adoption of a proposition recently made in the Common Council, by which the Legislature is to appoint Commissioners to superintend the erection of a new City Hall. The folly of transferring further legislation for this City to Albany, except to get a Charter that will return to it a form of government commensurate to its wants, is so apparent, that I hope it will not be indulged in again. One legislative act after another has been adopted at Albany, until we are almost without any government whatever. There is now in preparation a proposition for the Legislature to appoint six Commissioners, with power to name every officer under the City Government, which, if it becomes a law, will give the extinguishing blow to what little power is left to the people of this City over their own municipal affairs.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENSES.

Complaints are made of the largely increasing expense for Public School Education, and the want of power of the City Government over the disbursements of the Board of Education.

My attention has been called to this subject, and though there is, no doubt, room for improvement as it regards the economy evinced in the erection and fitting up of school-houses, yet the benefits derived from the system are of too great a magnitude to be jeoparded by illiberality in defraying its cost.

I have no doubt that it is the general approval of our Public Schools, as now conducted, that induces the people to submit to the present onerous taxation. The greatest improvements in the mode of culture adopted, and the evident advantages of the public schools over the private schools of this City, have made them the general academies of tuition for the children of nearly the whole population. The cost to us in taxation is not one-fifth the usual expense for the ordinary pay school education. Based upon new, free, and equal principles, who cannot put his whole tax-returned, by sending his children to the Public Schools, with the advantage of a better and more thorough education, and a discipline and moral training far more perfect than our fashionable "academies for young gentlemen" and pretend to.

Therefore, while disposed to do every thing in the equitable adjustment, yet leaving the management in the guardian care of those charge of the public education of this City, but a few years, I cannot recommend any step towards interfering with the management of it, so long as it continues to improve in efficiency and public benefit; and holds, as it does now, the position of our brightest ornament, with the prospect of being the fairest scene, from whence we are to derive yet higher honor, and more brilliant results.

REVISION OF THE ORDINANCES.

I cannot too earnestly impress upon you the necessity of a revision and a collecting of the ordinances into one or more volumes, and a codification of the laws applicable to this City. It would be almost incredible to a stranger to be told that there is no collection of the laws by which this City is governed.

A collection of ordinances has not been published since 1846, and of that but few copies remain; since 1845, material amendments have been made to the charter, and numerous resolutions and ordinances have been adopted, which are now to be found only by a voyage of discovery in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Aldermen, with the chance being very much against success, even with the guide of the accommodating officers who have charge of that office. The memory of persons who have for many years been connected with the Common Council is the only index to existence.

The mere statement of the fact will, I am confident, procure action.

THE DOCKS.

The dock accommodations of the shipping of the City, is another subject which should receive notice. You need not be informed that at present they are totally inadequate, both in extent and quality. There is no commercial city in the world of the magnitude of New-York so deficient. Substantial stone or iron docks and piers should be constructed, which would not only be durable, but in the result far more economical than those now in use.

A funded debt could be created for the payment of the cost, leaving to posterity, who are to be the recipients of the advantages derived from the construction, the liquidation of the obligation. The present, as well as the future accommodations for the shipping, which constitute so great an element in our prosperity, demand some action at your hands on this subject.

NON-PAYMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS AND OTHERS.

Much distress has recently been caused to persons having demands against the City, owing to the non-payment of salaries, and for supplies furnished, and contracts performed. Great injury has resulted to many individuals of small means from this cause. At any time, disappointments of this kind bear oppressively, but at a period of great monetary stringency, like the present, it is a hardship exceedingly onerous, and should not again occur. Besides the wrong done to the party having a just claim, by omitting to meet the demand, the injury to the treasury is not insignificant. We need not be told that a poor paymaster has to pay higher prices than he who meets his engagements promptly.

It is not unreasonable to expect that the City creditors will provide themselves against the loss arising from the difficulty in getting their dues, by charging sufficiently to cover the loss arising from these delays. Without recommending any relaxation in adherence to the laws and ordinances governing the disbursement of money, I cannot omit to express the hope that you will take immediate means to prevent a recurrence of so great an evil to the creditors of the City, and preserve its faith and credit from dishonor.

RELIEF TO BROADWAY.

Another relief to the citizens could be found in the adoption of some mode to prevent the large collection of omnibuses in Broadway, below the Park. In my opinion this evil should not be longer permitted.

If the stages now permitted to go to the South Ferry were limited to one-half the present number, the whole difficulty would be remedied. The many lines entering Broadway below the Park not only obstruct the passage of each other, but frequently cut off entirely the passage of smaller vehicles. Foot-passengers are excluded almost entirely from crossing.

This evil is increasing, though the Police, at an expense to the City, is kept on duty to prevent disorder, and to aid passengers in crossing.

The present laws deprive the Mayor of power over the omnibuses, so far as controlling their routes or their number, but I recommend that an ordinance be passed preventing any one line sending more than one stage in ten minutes, below the Park, in Broadway. The little inconvenience which this restriction would cause to persons having business below the Park would be of no consideration compared to the present difficulties.

I also recommend that the Russ pavement in Broadway be grooved. Though this beautiful and durable pavement is an ornament as well as advantage to the City, yet its smoothness renders it dangerous to horses. Its solidity retains moisture, which, when freezing, presents a surface of ice, rendering its use extremely dangerous.

CATTLE DRIVING.

The practice of driving cattle through the streets of the City is another evil calling for prompt action. It is an abuse which our citizens have submitted to too long. In my opinion this Common Council will deserve the severest censure, if, like its predecessors, it timidly shrinks from its duty in putting an end to this dangerous nuisance. Not only is the health of the whole population jeoparded by the unwholesome odors arising from the collection of these animals, but it not unfrequently occurs that life, limb, and property, are destroyed by it.

DIRTY STREETS.

In April, 1854, contracts were entered into for the cleaning of the streets and avenues of the City. The specifications of these contracts are stringent, and there would be no cause of complaint if the contractors performed them. They provide that every thoroughfare shall be thoroughly and properly cleaned, and that all the dirt, manure, ashes, garbage, rubbish and sweepings, of every kind, removed twice a week; and in Broadway and the leading avenues three times a week. If these conditions were complied with, there would be no grounds of complaint. I regret to say they have not been complied with, and though it is stated that in consequence of the low rates at which the contracts were taken, compliance is impossible without heavy loss; yet, in my opinion, there is no other resource than to demand a rigid fulfillment. If contracts are to be thrown up, or only half performed, at the will of contractors, because not profitable, the bargain is all on one side. Under this ruling, the City is to suffer in any event. So far as the law gives me power, I shall require a strict compliance with the existing contracts for cleaning the streets; and that I may know which of the contractors are derelict, the police have been ordered to make the condition of the streets, in their several beats, the subject of observation, and to report every day the result.

I am not prepared to make any recommendations with reference to the Executive Departments not alluded to herein. I shall communicate to you from time to time, such matters relating to them as call for your action.

FERNANDO WOOD.

THE MAYOR'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT PIERCE.

The following is the letter addressed by Mayor Wood to the President, (marked A,) in reference to the shipment of foreign paupers and criminals to this port:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW-YORK, Jan. 2, 1855.

His Excellency, Franklin Pierce, President of the United States:

DEAR SIR: There can be no doubt, that for many years, this port has been made a sort of penal colony for felons and paupers, by the local authorities of several of the continental European nations. The desperate character of a portion of the people arriving here from those countries, together with the increase of crime and misery among that class of our population, with other facts before us, prove, conclusively, that such is the case.

It is unnecessary to refer to the gross wrong thus perpetrated upon this City. It requires from me no allusion to the jeopardy of our lives and property from this cause. Men who, by a long career of crime and destitution have learned to recognize no laws, either civil or natural, cannot fail to produce feelings of terror at their approach.

The inherent right of every community to protect itself from dangers arising from such emigration, cannot be questioned. New-York has submitted to it long enough. The disease and pauperism arriving here, almost daily from abroad, is, of itself, a sufficient evil; but when to it is added crime, we must be permitted to remonstrate. We seek the interference of the General Government; as it is its duty to protect us from foreign aggression, with ball and cannon, so is it its duty to protect us against an enemy more insidious and destructive, though coming in another form.

I call your attention to this subject, hoping it will receive from you that action which is very great importance to the whole country demands.

I am very truly yours, &c.,

FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

COURT CALENDAR.—FRIDAY.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—Nos. 10, 13, 14

New-York Daily Times.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19, 1855.

Terms for the Month.

THE DAILY TIMES (Morning and Evening) [illegible] to any part of the country at SIX DOLLARS per annum.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES is published on Tuesday and Friday of each week, containing all the reading matter of the Daily, and is sent to subscribers at TWO DOLLARS per annum.

THE WEEKLY TIMES contains a selection from the reading matter of the Daily, and is sent to mail subscribers at TWO DOLLARS per annum. This copies will be sent for FIFTEEN DOLLARS.

Payment in all cases must be made in advance.

Congressional.

A number of new bills were introduced into the Senate yesterday—among them was one, by Mr. Fish, to authorize the construction of a Custom-House, Post-Office and Court-House at Plattsburg, New-York. The Compensation bill was discussed at considerable length. Mr. GILLETT was opposed to the bill in so far as it related to the pay of Members of Congress, because there was not a fair system of mileage connected with the proposed increase. And, in fact, he objected to it altogether. If Members of the State Legislature could live on from two to four dollars a day, he could not see why Members of Congress could not keep out of the Sheriff's hands on eight dollars; neither could he understand if State Judges could live upon $1,500 a year, why the Judges of the United States Courts could not keep fat enough on $4,500. Mr. BADGER was, of course, surprised at the remarks of Mr. GILLETT; others sympathized with him—among them was Mr. TOMPKINS, his colleague, who thought it bad policy to pay public servants small wages.

In the House, the conduct of Sam was again criticised by Mr. CHANDLER, of Philadelphia, who replied to the late Know-Nothing speech of Mr. BANKS. He endeavored to prove that the Pope does not claim a right to interfere with the political relations of any other country than that of which he is himself the subject; and declares himself ready, with every other Catholic, to resist such assumption, should it ever be made. Mr. COXE defended the Whig party, and briefly supported the Know-Nothings.

The Baltic's News.

The weekly foreign budget by the present arrival is not particularly stirring, though in some respects quite interesting. The siege of Sebastopol progresses slowly. The intermediate events, since the last steamer, are not important on the side of the Allies. The Russian fleet in the Black Sea is somewhat emboldened, and a report *viâ* Warsaw, runs to the effect that a part of the Naval force—its officers and marines—has been transferred from the Baltic to Sebastopol. The condition of the British Army in the Crimea is the text of a severe criticism on the military policy of the Government in the London Times, which will be found copied on another page. The case is strongly put, and the degree of suffering represented by the writer will create surprise. Equally remarkable, however, is the fact that such developments should emanate from the leading journal of England. The charge is direct—not by implication—that *the Army has no head*. Lord RAGLAN has but too evidently fallen short of the hopes of the nation; also the *Times*, which with all its vaunted independence, is generally the first to catch the popular breeze, would scarcely venture to make a headless chief of the Commander of the Crimea. Nor is this all. The same journal takes issue with and defies the President of the Council, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, to make good the doctrine which he propounded in the Commons, that only men perfectly familiar with the art of war itself, should indulge in military criticism, and even they not too nearly at a distance from the scene of action. The conclusion arrived at by the *Times* is that "the more a subject is discussed the less professional it becomes," professional critics not being always the most impartial.

Turning to politics and diplomacy, the Speech of the French Emperor will be found of primary interest; next to which is a Diplomatic Council reported at Vienna,—the result of which, so far as known, was the exchange of notes between England, France and Austria, and a request for time by the Russian Ambassador. Our private London correspondent thinks that this movement strengthens his previously expressed opinion, that some sort of peace will be patched up. There are various opinions as to the practical end, if any, of the special mission from Prussia to the English Court.

From Spain there is a report that the subject of Cuba is being considered by the Ministry. The King of Naples is in trouble with the Jesuits. From India, assurances are given that Dost MAHOMMED, the ruler of Afghanistan, and who holds Cabul, the "key to India," has entered into friendly communication with the English Government, and is disposed to thwart the intrigues of twenty years' standing of the Czar of Russia. The Khan of Khelat has given assurances that he will treat Britain's enemies as his enemies, and will protect the frontier Province of the Scinde from all encroachments.

Commercially the accounts represent a very steady state of markets at Liverpool, and a stable confidence in the English Funds in London. The new French Loan of a hundred millions of dollars has somewhat unsettled the Paris Exchange.

"A Hint to Our Brethren."

A passage in the French Imperial Speech will attract attention on this side the Atlantic. It intimates that the Western Powers, so recently and happily united in bonds of good fellowship, "have the same views, and the same intentions animate the two Governments in *all* parts of the globe." The *Morning Chronicle's* Paris correspondent—said to be a very well informed gentleman, and high in favor in official quarters—puts the self-answering question, whether these words be not "intended as hints to our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic that their motions are watched on this." Now, our brethren on the other side of the Atlantic may rest assured of one thing—the perfect indifference with which we regard their vigilance. It will utterly fail to influence our policy in any way. It would, however, be prudent in *our* brethren on the other side of the Atlantic to be somewhat less lavish of *hints*. We, on this side of the same Atlantic, are rather of a quick understanding, and are even accused of "guessing" too much. We might be left, one would think, to our proper means of discrimination in making out what is or what is not intended for us in an ambigious phrase from one or another despot of Europe. *Hints*, if originating in good will, are superfluous, and if intended as a *menace*, why, then, they are ridiculous, so far as we are concerned, and anything but politic in those who utter them. English journalists and French Ministers ought to remember that hints of this last sort are only efficient in stirring up bad blood in a people who have naturally no love to spare for despots.

A New County—Division of Orange and Ulster.

A proposition to divide Orange County, and to form from portions of it and Ulster a new County, is again seriously entertained. Orange County is one of the richest and most extensive in the State. It is forty miles long, with Newburg, on the Hudson, and Port Jervis, on the Delaware, for extremities. Thirty miles broad, it includes many rich towns in its limits. The centre of the County is the half-shire town of Goshen, located midway between Newburg and Port Jervis, and lying in a valley celebrated for its products. The Courts are held alternately at Newburg and Goshen; but the offices of the County Clerk, Surrogate and other public functionaries, and the County Prison, are situated in Goshen—that place being central to all points. There are two Court-houses. The Sheriff resides at Newburg, and the Deputy at Goshen. As it now exists, the County has a complete duality. Neither the inland nor river Capital has a monopoly of business, and the officers of the County have a brisk account in traveling expenses from one point to another.

The proposed division would include in the River County, (to be formed partly from Ulster,) the towns of Newburg, New-Windsor, Montgomery, Crawford, Shawangunk, Plattekill and New-Paltz. The leading towns in the western section would be Goshen, Florida, Middletown, Port Jervis and Chester. Probably, in case of a division, the new County would have its County-seat at Newburg, and the present name of Orange be retained by the section of which Goshen would be the Capital. We believe there is a feeling among the residents of the County in favor of a division. The change would obviate many inconveniences which are now experienced in reaching the County towns; and the population of the County (87,145 in 1850) is sufficiently large, with the additions from Ulster, to constitute two fair-sized Counties,—each of which would possess within itself the elements of sturdy growth.

Outrages in Texas other than Indian.

Of Indian outrages in Texas we never receive a letter or a paper from Texas-ward that we have not a supply sufficient to glut the most ravenous relishers of the horrible. Of certain other outrages there we less frequently hear. But occasionally a German paper from that region—that has not the fear of mere English readers before its eyes—comes to hand, in which the barbarities practiced by whites upon whites, are narrated with a minuteness of shocking detail before which Indian outrages pale into common-place scalpings and infant-brainings.

Now, the great and sore trouble of all Southern Texas is, that the Slaves will run away. Some one hundred and fifty were thus lost to the Western part of the State last year. The vicinity of the Mexican border is too strong a temptation for the poor, weak-minded colored people, and whenever they get—for their own good of course—a flogging unusually severe, are liable to terrible attacks of "*drapetomania*," which they seldom recover from until they are across the line and in the land presided over by Republican SANTA ANNA. The impression prevails throughout Texas, that when a negro is taken with this disease, (it is Dr. CARTWRIGHT, of New-Orleans, who discovered that running away was a veritable disease, to be treated by kind attention, full feeding, good clothing and humanity,) there is a white man at the bottom of it. Instinctively they look for a Mexican or a Yankee as the instigator. Lately, four slaves suddenly were missing from a plantation. The people, who collected in a mass to consider the misfortune, went to the house of the mother of one of the fugitives to make inquisition. The miserable old woman, frightened half out of her wits, told them that a white man had seduced them away. He had planned it, she said, that they were to go with him towards the frontier; he was to sell them to a planter, from whom they were to run away and meet him again; then he was to resell them, and so on, until, having raised money enough to get a snug piece of real estate over the line, the five were to reunite and enjoy the profits of the speculation together. Upon this testimony alone, without Jury or Judge, the white man was taken and summarily hung. We expect such things in Chili. None are surprised to hear of Gen. MORAN taken prisoner, Court-martialed, and shot in a trice. But the country we speak of is American. Its debts are our debts—its inhabitants our fellow-citizens. Nor do such stories figure in the American papers. "Items" are not so valuable there. It is left for the German paper of the vicinity to tell the story.

In another town, when it was rumored that sundry negroes had been tempted away by a suspicious white skin, the legal gentlemen of the place met and agreed by public resolution that they would not defend any man accused of the crime of running off negroes! Nothing but the best authority provokes us to believe in the truth of such outrages upon justice as this.

For Indian outrages, the sovereign remedy, if we are to put faith in Presidential Messages and Secretaries' Reports, is an additional force of Rangers, sent out by the General Government. But another class of outrages this remedy would only aggravate—to wit, the following: A company freshly arrived in the Lone Star State saw fit to celebrate the happy occasion for the now well-protected community, by a drunken debauch. In the course of it they tore down dwelling-houses, killed sheep, and most miscellaneously wrought out all sorts of mischief. Their gallant commander was a gentleman; but he had a company of desperadoes to deal with, and all his threats, admonitions and entreaties were vain. Between Indians, riotous soldiers and a populace so keenly-scented for negro-thieves, we fancy that the quiet laboring people of Texas have anything else than a dull or sleepy life of it.

Is there no Work for those who want it?—Wages and Labor.

Is the public work of the City all finished? Is there nothing to set our unwillingly idle men to work at? The old, burnt-out City Hall still cumbers the ground; why should it any longer? To clear off that portion of the Park would employ some hands that now are idle. Why not adopt Councilman WILD's project, and commence clearing it away?

Long time we have brooded over the new reservoir. But it seems from a communication sent by the President of the Croton Aqueduct Board to the Mayor, that there is nothing which the City can now do towards its construction without waste. "There is, however," he adds, "a considerable amount of work to be done in the Eighth-avenue, in excavating the trench for the new main, which is to be brought from the upper reservoir to supply the western portion of the City. This work could be done now, and most advantageously to the interests of the City, provided the restriction of the 12th section of the amended Charter (which prohibits any expenditure of money in an amount exceeding $250, unless by contract,) could in any manner be obviated." The objections of the Board are weighty, and unfortunately, sound. We trust that the 12th section will speedily be amended for this emergency.

This is no time to parley about the *cheapest way* of securing metropolitan improvements. No matter if the days begin late and end early. No matter if men cannot work to the best advantage now. Let work be given out. Let good wages be given—not the best, perhaps, lest workmen be tempted to rush in from the country to do the work.

They say that "they who are so noisy for work are not the best workmen; that they want the highest wages and will do their work but poorly if set at it." Try them. If they are poor workmen discharge them and get better ones. But humanity pleads for the giving out of such jobs as can be taken up at once, and wise policy certainly would indicate that the City should get its work done at a disadvantage rather than add to its burden of pauperism, and thrust down, into the degradation of the charity-fed, men who lack nothing but work to take care of themselves.

But misfortunes thicken. Yesterday the merchants had a meeting, and resolved that they could not longer pay the present prices of laborers about the wharves and upon the shipping. Hard news this for the laborers, and upon its heels all advice will be but ungraciously received. All last Spring labor had capital under its thumb. It dictated higher wages and it got them,—not willingly indeed, but it got them. Now the Hard Times has both capital and Labor under its thumb, and Capitalists, in self-defence, insist that they can no more afford to pay the late high prices, than the laborers can to receive the low rates of which they complained a year ago. The pressure we must not forget is equally upon all, the rich and the poor. Compel employers to stick by your old terms and they fail, dragging in their ruin each a hundred others. Does not the pressure of the times warrant to the sticklers for high wages an abandonment, temporarily, of their claims? Is it now dishonorable to compromise? When the Commodore in the Brooklyn Navy-Yard announced that workmen must take less wages or none at all, we blamed the Government, which is rich and could afford to be the last, that it should be among the first to increase the prevalent distress by cutting down wages. Are we not right in urging men now to work for what they can get, when to get work at all is so difficult? Or is the old maxim wrong, and is "half a loaf" no "better than no bread?"

Meanwhile, be it remembered that the agricultural interest suffers no distress. Labor is in demand upon the farms all about us. We hear it from all quarters—the call for help at good paying prices. The land is not cursed. Farmers grow rich this year as last, and the products of the fields have seldom netted more to their cultivators than now. The hint should be heeded by those who *can* get into the country. Not all can do it, and we would be duly mindful of this fact as we say it.

Courage! friends. Until the farming interest suffers, we cannot starve nor be utterly ruined. Banks may break, but after a while they redeem their notes. Mercantile houses fail; business generally suffers a paralysis, but after a wholesome, though most painful depletion, we are sure to come up again all right. The Winter is working off rapidly; coal falls slightly in price; provisions scarcely hold their own; and this Winter weathered, God helping, better times must shine in upon us.

Bear Meeting.

A meeting of the Bar of the City will be held to-morrow at 2 o'clock in the Common Pleas Chamber, to take action relative to the loss of the Arctic.

City Reform—Special Message of Mayor Wood.

Mayor WOOD has addressed to the Common Council a long and interesting Special Message. In it, he reviews the affairs of the City, so thoroughly that no stone is left unturned. The brevity of the Mayor's Inaugural having afforded him but brief space for comment, the present opportunity for suggestions and recommendations is fully improved. In the midst of a good share of words, Mr. WOOD shows sound sense; and his remarks on the general conduct of the City Government will meet with hearty approbation.

The Message sets out with a detailed statement of the City Debt, with the announcement that citizens "do not believe that all of the money appropriated for City expenditures is devoted to public wants." In the Mayor's opinion, a close scrutiny of the items composing the accounts of the disbursing officers will show that unnecessary outlays have tended to augment the amount of the annual taxes. To relieve the Treasury of the heavy demands which are made upon it, and to take from individuals in the employ of the City those perquisites which they have hitherto enjoyed, seem to be the leading ideas of the Message. Heavy outlays for street-openings, grading, paving and sewering, are inveighed against, with a degree of earnestness that will find a hearty echo in the breasts of all tax-payers. The want of unity among the *six* different Departments which exercise partial control over the streets, is one of the principal causes of trouble. The appointment and fleeing of Commissioners is another fruitful source of outlay. As a remedy, the Mayor recommends the appointment of a permanent Board of Commissioners, who shall have power to appoint permanent Surveyors.

A proposition to tax the City Railroad cars more heavily is a good one. The Mayor calculates upon a revenue of $40,000 from this source, besides incidental advantages. Taxation of foreign property in the City is likewise recommended.

An important feature of the Message is that portion which relates to Emigrants. The recent developments in the Police Courts have opened a chapter in this history that will bear study. That convicts and paupers from abroad should be sent to us for maintenance, is a species of sharp practice that finds no favor in the Mayor's eyes. The increase of crime, the prevalence of destitution among emigrants, the distresses of the poor at the present moment, are undoubtedly to be traced, in a considerable degre, to the arrival of so many miserable people from countries whence they have been actually *expelled*, either for crimes committed, or because their own Governments decline to contribute to their support. Upon this point, the Mayor dwells with force; not in the Message only, but also in a communication addressed to President PIERCE, a copy of which is appended to the document.

The Police is censured for inefficiency, and the reorganization of the Board of Police Commissioners is earnestly recommended. The Central Park is spoken of respectfully, as a praiseworthy enterprise.

With reference to the erection of a new City Hall, Mr. WOOD hints the propriety of fixing upon a more central location than the Park. In conclusion, he favors us with the following remonstrance—being a still stronger repetition of the sentiments uttered in the Inaugural Address:

"Nor can I recommend the adoption of a proposition recently made in the Common Council, by which the Legislature is to appoint Commissioners to superintend the erection of a new City Hall. The folly of transferring further legislation for this City to Albany, except to get a Charter that will return to it a form of government commensurate to its wants, is so apparent, that I hope it will not be indulged in again. One legislative act after another has been adopted at Albany, until we are almost without any government whatever. There is now in preparation a proposition for the Legislature to appoint six Commissioners, with power to name every officer under the City Government, which, if it becomes a law, will give the extinguishing blow to what little power is left to the people of this City over their own municipal affairs."

Amusements.

The ACADEMY last evening presented a truly splendid and gratifying appearance—splendid for the numbers present there, and gratifying as an evidence of effort in a good cause. The parquette, balcony boxes, first, second and third tiers, with all the proscenium boxes, were completely crowded. In the amphitheatre (so called because it is *not* an amphitheatre) there were probably five hundred persons. It was, we are disposed to believe, the largest audience that ever assembled in New-York for a musical entertainment. The activity of the gentlemen of the Committee, and their cordial cooperation with GRISI, MARIO, SUSINI, BADIALI and the other artistes who volunteered on this excellent occasion, are worthy of the highest commendation. They were doubtless amply repaid by the gratification such an attendance could not fail to produce.

Of the concert itself we can truly speak in terms of the highest praise. Every item in the programme was a gem of the purest water, and lost none of its brilliancy in the hands of the artistes. We have seldom listened to a programme more completely satisfactory.

Early in the evening Signor SALABERT announced that Signora DONOVANI would not sing—from indisposition, of course. We noticed that Madame GRISI was not entirely free from cough. The disappointment was amply compensated by Signors BADIALI and SUSINI, who volunteered a duet to supply the vacancy.

The proceeds of the concert will assuredly be something considerable. We hope they will be applied with discrimination and impartiality.

BURTON'S THEATRE.—An "Original Locomotive, Classical, Odyssey-ical, Musical, Sensical, Warlike bit of Tomfoolery, called 'Circe and her Magic Cup,'" was produced here last night. There is some accuracy in this tortuous title; it is a "bit of Tomfoolery"—the *worst* bit it was possible to select, we sincerely trust. It is utterly unworthy of notice, and our only reason for mentioning its production is in sympathy with Mr. BURTON, who in placing a bald and worthless work on the stage, has displayed a most desperate inclination to make its success. The dresses, scenery, and music are good. Some military evolutions in the last scene were also really clever. Beyond those items, there is nothing to commend. We were fortunate enough not to learn the author's name.

"Circe and her Magic Cup" was received with disapprobation, and was not announced for repetition.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Homestead and Pacific Railroad Bills—The Collins Line Appropriation.

Special Correspondence of New-York Daily Times.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 1855.

The Homestead bill, as an amendment to Cass's Land Graduation bill, was laid out cold and stiff in the House to-day; but it will be borne in mind that this is no evidence of its absolute defeat. Mr. DAWSON, of Pennsylvania, has made a gallant and judicious fight for it, and will not permit himself to be discouraged by to-day's contretemps. His motto is to stand to the guns while the planking holds together; and bold, determined energy, and judicious management may, another day, retrieve the failure of this; as the Homestead will come up again as a distinct and independent proposition. Before that time, Mr. DAWSON may make many friends for it if he tries, as he undoubtedly will; and he only needs to change about a dozen votes to triumph.

The Pacific Railroad projects multiply. We have already four on the carpet, and it is understood Mr. RUSK will introduce still another to-morrow. Since Senator GWIN took his seat, the hopes of the Pacific Railroad men are reviving a little. The Senator's indomitable energy and extraordinary tact, give him decided influence here among all classes, and upon the construction of the Pacific Railroad he has set his heart. It will go hard if he does not succeed in some movement looking to the successful initiation of that enterprise.

I have repeatedly said, of late, that the Pacific Railroad bill pending in the House is dead—and for reasons stated. Of the truth of that assertion I am perfectly satisfied. It needed no seer to predict it, when the gentlemen having it in charge postponed its consideration for the sake of letting the Nebraska bill be taken up. Good Pacific Railroad men then said that if the latter measure was not of more importance to the constituents of Representative MCDOUGAL than the Nebraska bill, he might have the latter and do without the Railroad. He ought to understand this, and if he really does want a Pacific Railroad bill to pass, retire gracefully from the leadership of the measure in the House.

Mr. DOUGLAS has introduced into the Senate a Pacific Railroad bill, which I enclose for publication. [The bill will be found on our Sixth Page—EDS.] This scheme evidently has many friends, and may unite different sections of the country heartily in its favor. It will be seen that, to aid in constructing railroads and telegraphs to the Pacific, it purposes to grant alternate sections of land in aid of three different routes,—the Northern, or STEVENS' route—the Central, or BENTON's route, and the Southern, or TEXAS route. The chief element of success claimed for this bill is, that it leaves open to competition all the principal routes, and that the friend of each, therefore, is inclined to vote for it, because perfectly satisfied that the road by *his* route will be first built, as it is clear that the successful route will be the one which combines the greatest natural advantages with the greatest amount of capital, and each man is satisfied that the route he is in favor of is the one which best answers this description. With a new leadership in the House, I am not sure that some such bill as this may not pass; but I have not had sufficient opportunity to examine it to be entirely satisfied as to what are its merits or demerits.

The Judiciary Reform bill now under discussion in the Senate is destined to defeat, unless I greatly miscalculate. The proposition to make ten new United States Circuit Judges is looked upon with a good deal of distrust; nor are there many who like the idea of relieving the Supreme Court Judges from Circuit duties. A Judge of the Supreme Court for the California Circuit will probably be provided, but nothing more.

There is a good deal of indignant comment here upon an assault made yesterday in the columns of one of your cotemporaries, upon Senator RUSK in connection with the Collins line appropriation. If there is an honorable, high-minded man in the Senate, it is the Senator from TEXAS. No man in that body possesses more bold, frank independence of character; and no one enjoys more the respect and love of all who are brought in contact with him than he. He is honest, generous, incorruptible and patriotic, and withal, one of the wisest statesmen and ablest tacticians the country can boast. I have heard no one speak on the subject who does not concur in pronouncing the assault upon him gratuitous and malicious.

The *Union* about a month ago had reliable intelligence that HORATIO SEYMOUR would "be declared Governor of the State of New-York," and only a few days ago, it was just as confident that Gen. SHIELDS would be reelected to the Senate from Illinois. Wonder if the editor has heard the news from Albany lately, or whether he has noticed the fact that the Anti-Nebraska men have a majority of sixteen, at least, in the Illinois Assembly? In Iowa, too, with what a yell of triumph the "Democracy" hailed the defeat of FITZ HENRY WARREN! Do they like HARLAN any better? It is said that he is one of those terrible fellows—the SEWARD men. S.

ILLINOIS POLITICS.

The Legislature—Who will be Senator next?

Correspondence of the New-York Daily Times:

SPRINGFIELD, (Ill.) Saturday, Jan. 6, 1855.

To-day closes the first week of the present session of the Illinois Legislature.

No bills of general importance have been passed, nor much business of any kind accomplished.

The Governor's Message was read to the two Houses on Wednesday, which was a short, but sensible, well written document, showing conclusively that our State would be enabled to pay off her public debts in less than nine years.

Sufficient indications have been given by various motions and votes to show that a prohibitory liquor law will be passed.

'Tis only necessary to state that Judge LOGAN, the member from Sangamon County, has prepared a bill on this subject, to satisfy every friend of temperance and reform that the bill will be all and just what the evils of the liquor traffic demand.

Next week will be mainly occupied by the discussion of resolutions, instructing our Senators to vote for the restoration of the Missouri Compromise. Resolutions of instruction will be passed. We shall then see how much regard Senator DOUGLAS has for "popular sovereignty"—the will of the people—as expressed by their representatives in the General Assembly of the State. The election last November turned upon the Nebraska question. No one would have the hardihood to question but that the majority of the present Legislature truly represent the feelings of a vast majority of the people of the State of Illinois. No one doubts, who is acquainted with the insatiate ambition for place and power which festers in the heart of STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, but that he will disobey those instructions, and defy the people of Illinois, and cling to his Senatorial seat.

The election for a United States Senator will next occupy the attention of the Legislature. Gen. SHIELDS' term of office will expire on the 4th of March next. It may be difficult to say who will take his place. It is a fixed fact that he can not be returned, nor any Nebraska man. An anti Nebraska man will be elected, but who is to be that man is very questionable. ABRAM LINCOLN is at present the most prominent candidate among the anti-Nebraska members; but it should be borne in mind that this element is composed of Whigs, Anti-Nebraska Democrats and Fusionists. RICHARD YATES and ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS, (both of whom enjoy the unlimited confidence of the Whig party of Illinois, have their friends, and may prove more formidable candidates than Mr. LINCOLN before the balloting comes. The Anti-Nebraska Democrats will probably unload on their candidate, either Judge TRUMBULL, or Mr. JOHN WENTWORTH, of Chicago, commonly called "Long John," or UNDERWOOD. There will be no choosing on the first ballot, nor in all till the Anti-Nebraska strength is concentrated on *one* candidate. I am inclined to think that when fifty-one votes are given for one man, that man will be JOHN MCLEAN YATES, who now so ably and faithfully represents the Central District of Illinois. He has endeared himself to the friends of freedom by his bold and steady opposition to the Nebraska bill. His energy in obtaining an appropriation for the improvement of the navigation of the Illinois River, and his well-known attachment to every just measure of internal improvement, have gained him many friends outside of his party; his integrity and activity and industry in Congress; his attention to the wants of his constituents, and to the general interests of the whole State, have made him a strong man throughout the State, and one whose election to the Senate of the United States would be hailed by the people with a cordiality of feeling extended to no other man. Mr. LINCOLN is a very popular man with the Whig party; he it was who drove Judge DOUGLAS from his appointments last Fall. He first replied to Judge DOUGLAS in Springfield, and afterwards at Peoria met and demolished him so completely that he was suddenly sick, and gave up his appointments.

As I before remarked, LINCOLN is at present the prominent candidate, but his best friends and those most convenant with the complexion of the Legislature fear that he will be unable to gain the support of most of the members from the south part of the State, who represent the nine-fifing element. At a Fusion State Convention, Mr. LINCOLN was appointed one of the State Central Committee, which appointment, either from principle or policy, he did not see fit to accept. I learn that some of the fusion members have taken umbrage on that account, and have a preference for RICHARD YATES WILLIAMS. Judge TRUMBULL would be a very popular candidate, and in all probability the successful one, but for the reason that he is now a member elect of the next Congress, by a majority of three thousand, and that, too, in a district which gave PIERCE near five thousand majority. It is thought doubtful whether any other Anti-Nebraska man could be elected so near the head of Egypt. Gen. SHIELDS has been written to by his friends to come out and try what virtue there is in such words and kind promises. This is reversing the story of the old man who found the boy in his apple tree. Instead of kind words, tufts of grass and clods, we have had Judge DOUGLAS, with his denunciation and vile abuse, traversing the State and spitting out his bulls of excommunication against every Democrat of note who refused to gulp down Nebraska Bill. Irish blarney will be demonstrating too, however. The majority of the present General Assembly are composed of good men and true. If the General leaves his duties at Washington to electioneer at Springfield, he will be respected to return to his seat in the Senate, which seat you may rest assured will be filled by a firm and reliable friend of the Missouri Compromise. S.

Dr. OLIVER B. HOWE, Postmaster at Stoddarne, N. H., with his wife, were arrested lately by a United States Deputy Marshal, and taken to Concord, charged with purloining money from letters passing through the Post-Office. The letters were decoy letters, put into the mail for the purpose of detecting the suspected culprits. Dr. H. is about 60 years of age, a practising physician, and is said to be in easy circumstances, and has been regarded as a man of the strictest integrity. He was held to bail in the sum of $2,000.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

PILES, FISTULA AND PROLAPSUS.—There can be no greater drain upon the life-principle than these affections; great numbers are [illegible] by them till constitution sinks upon the lungs; then they are correctly told that the Piles have drawn the irritation from the lungs, and prevented life! Absurd! Hundreds are annually saved from a cure by these diseases. Every case, on application, can at once be pronounced curable or incurable, without the knife or ligature, by the new process now successfully applied by Dr. DIXON, Editor of the Journal, who has established a spacious Private Hospital, for the reception of surgical cases, in one of the most healthful parts of the City. Usually Dr. D. relies to a great number of persons cured by him in this City. The patient need not be detained at all.

Letters from the country must be addressed to DAVID H. DIXON, M. D., Editor of the Journal, Box No. 2,[illegible] Post-Office. City applicants, at No. 6[illegible] Office hours from 12 to 2 o'clock daily, and 7 to 9 evenings.

PAIN—UNHAPPINESS.—[illegible] PROCURED. [illegible] Nebraska Bill.

BRANDRETH'S PILLS.—[illegible] Brandreth's Pills are [illegible] equal to Brandreth's Pills. Use them, in three doses, according to the symptoms may result to suit; they will cure sooner than all the nauseous stuff ever made.

In lieu of a new truth from a quarter, we have to be guided by the lessons of experience. Our forefathers have proved Brandreth's Pills and the human family have unanimously adopted them as the best family P[illegible] and purify the blood; they are sure to do good, they only take out of the body what is hurtful. I was [illegible] those who have used them ever since. [illegible]

Men will be hasty, and [illegible] hitherto has left, weighed down in the heart, [illegible] cause, indirect causes of suffering, which no [illegible] know how to relieve until the blessed medicine was [illegible] and you remember, Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer [illegible] Oh, prejudice, fatal prejudice! where so many [illegible] from group upon the bitter fruit of experience.

Why the world continues to use baneful drugs, [illegible] blood to be thus [illegible] to [illegible] which Brandreth Pills would in [illegible] an improved state of health. Gray [illegible] the effected.

Brandreth's Pills are sold at 25 cents per box, with full directions, at the principal office, Brandreth's Building, [illegible] ance No. 43 Canal-st.; also at the branch office, [illegible] Broadway-st., and 274 Bowery.

GREAT FIRE AT LYNCHBURG, VA.—

MR. S. C. HERMANN—Sir: Early this [illegible] visited by a large and destructive fire, eight or ten buildings being consumed.

The occupant of one of these [illegible] your Fire Proof Safes, which [illegible] been in, as I see the ruins, and after getting it a little time to "cool off," was opened and the books and papers found safe and in good order.

This is the first test applied to your Safes here, and it is considered perfectly satisfactory.

Yours truly, J. H. THOMPSON & CO.

PIANOS! PIANOS!—AN IMMENSE ASSORTMENT of Pianos of every variety of style, manufacture and price. [illegible] Pianos, and the sole agency for Chickering's celebrated Molian Pianos, and the sole agency for Horace Waters' Pianos. Second-hand Pianos at from [illegible] prices from $40 to $150. Pianos to rent. [illegible] five different manufactories, including the well known [illegible] & H. W. Smith's Melodeons, (formed the second [illegible] prices, $40, $50, $75, $80, $100, $125, $150, $175, $200, and upwards. Each instrument guaranteed. [illegible] from Steamer prices.

HORACE WATERS, No. 333 Broadway.

HIGH & CO.'S SALAMANDER SAFES, WILDER'S PATENT.—Twelve years in use and more than twenty world's books and page advertisement in one of these. They have been tested in almost every conceivable way, and never found wanting. For sale by

STEARNS & MARVIN, Nos. 164 and 166 Water-st.

The only makers of Safes combining Wilder's and High & Co.'s Patents.

LINENS, LINENS.—JUST RECEIVED, A LARGE stock of Frenchs, Sim & Co.'s paper of 48 yards. Linens the best specie ever brought to this market. Also, Linen Sheetings and Damasks, Linen, Damasks, Napkins, &c., all of which will be sold at great bargains.

A. H. STEADEREER,

No. 257 Broadway, corner of Leonard-st.

SNOW AND RAIN vs. BALLS AND PASTEBOARD.—Ladies' Gaiter, Boots, Misses' and Children's India Rubber Boots and Shoes, suitable for this season of snow and rain. Ladies' and Misses' white Satin and Lasting Gaiter Boots and Kid Slippers, suitable for the season, for sale by the Parties, at J. E. MILLER & CO.'S, No. 135 Court-st.

SILKS, SILKS.—THOSE WHO WISH TO PURCHASE Silks when it not fail to examine the extensive stock of A. T. STEWART & LEADBEATER, No. 257 Broadway, corner of Leonard-st., as he is selling the richest and cheapest silks to be found in this City.

PATENT FIRE-PROOF SAFES.—THE SUBSCRIBERS [illegible] with Hall's Patent Powder Proof Locks, [illegible] Water and Fire-ale. SILAS C. HERRING.

DEFIANCE SALAMANDER SAFES.—ROBERT M. PATRICK & CO. [illegible] Dealers, Locks and Gun Store, Eagle No. 102 Pearl-st., one door below Maiden-lane.

LYONS' KATHAIRON.—THE INCONTESTABLE [illegible] Kathairon is a preparation of this nature for restoring and beautifying the human hair, for sale by [illegible] Druggists generally in the country. Price, [illegible] Sold by all dealers everywhere. LYONS, No. 195 Broadway, opposite Stewart, [illegible]

THE POOR.

Shipping Merchants and their Employes—Reduction of Wages.

A meeting of merchants interested in the shipping business of New-York, was held on Change yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of considering the condition of the shipping business, and of agreeing upon (what it was alleged circumstances had rendered absolutely necessary,) a reduced scale of wages for the mechanics and laborers employed therein.

When the meeting had been duly organized and called to order, a resolution was read and almost unanimously agreed to, setting forth the extremely depressed condition of the shipping business, and reducing the daily remuneration of the persons employed therein to the extent:

Carpenters and Caulkers from	$2 — to $2 50
Riggers	2 — to 1 75
Ordinary laborers	1 75 to 1 50

per day, the reduction to take effect on Monday next, Jan. 15.

The shipping merchants, it was remarked, had, in prosperous times, granted the advanced rate of wages demanded by their employes; they now, under the pressure of circumstances and after having avoided making any change, as long as they possibly could do so, felt themselves obliged, in self-defence, to deduct as stated above. The hope was expressed that the operatives would agree to work on at the reduced rates, until the return of a better state of things, when the shipping merchants would be once again found among the foremost to increase the reward of the toiler.

Twentieth Ward Relief Association.

The Twentieth Ward Relief Association held a meeting last evening at Continental Hall. About $350 in money have been contributed, beside some other things. The paucity of their means has compelled them to discontinue the distribution of meat and even of bread. About 1,600 loaves of bread have been given out during the week and 700 gallons of soup. They find that one kettle of soup made with beans will go as far as two without. The wants of the poor in the Ward, so far as ascertained, amount to 1,000 loaves of bread and 350 gallons of soup per day, which would cost about $100.

Several distinguished singers have proffered their services for a Concert, and about $400 have been subscribed towards a ball in behalf of the Association.

A member of the Committee stated that he gave his wife 50 tickets for soup that morning and told her to give one to everybody who applied. She had been able to give away but two during the day; they usually wanted five groceries.

The system of selling tickets is found to work well. Some people who would not otherwise contribute will buy tickets for distribution; they think they get their money's worth.

The twelve tenements offered rent free by B. M. Fowlers are all taken up.

Another Address.

The Committee appointed at Hope Chapel met at No. 89 Howard-street, in conference with their German brethren in distress, and resolved themselves into a Committee to draft and present an Address to the Common Council to-morrow evening.

Newburg Charity.

NEWBURG, N. Y., Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1855.

To the Editor of the New-York Daily Times:

The efforts made for the relief of the poor here have never before been so well organized. The town has been distributed, and efficient Committees have been appointed for each district. A Charity Concert was given in the Presbyterian Church on the evening of the 5th inst., by the musicians of this village, under direction of Prof. WM. N. REID, from which $400 was realized, and which has already been dispensed to the suffering poor. D.

Paraguay.

From the Buenos Ayres Packet, Oct. 21.

That we might not be accused or suspected of fanning the torch of discord, we have purposely abstained from commenting, or even reporting the unhappy and unseemly questions that have been agitated and discussed with such warmth, by the Government of Paraguay on the one hand, and Consul HOPKINS on the other. As we feared from the beginning, they are now fast assuming an international character that may lead to unpleasant complications. We have perfect reliance on the source whence we derived the following information:

In pursuance of what are consider a short-sighted policy, the Government of Paraguay ordered all North Americans citizens to quit the territory of the Republic, with a special provision in the case of Consul HOPKINS, that he should resign all claims and pretensions to certain lands which he had purchased from the Government, in other days and circumstances, and of which he must be held the legitimate owner. With this condition Mr. HOPKINS refused to comply, and to avoid a forcible separation from his fellow-countrymen, applied to the Commander of the *Water Witch*, who interposed his services in the off-hand way customary with the class to which he belongs. This was an intimation to the effect, that if Mr. HOPKINS and the other North Americans were not allowed to embark without molestation, the *Water Witch* would commence a bombardment of the city of Assuncion, at a specified hour of the following day. Accordingly, on the ensuing morning, the *Water Witch* took up a position, with her guns, double-shotted, bearing in the direction of the Presidential Palace. "With all the pomp and circumstance of glorious war," each man occupied his place, and the lighted match only awaited a monosyllable from the commanding officer, to recount, in the placid waters of Paraguay, the revolting tragedy of Greytown. In this emergency, the Paraguayans wisely deemed "prudence the better part of valor;" and not a man, woman or child was to be seen in the streets of Assuncion. Mr. HOPKINS and all others were allowed to embark without molestation in the boats of the *Water Witch*, and in due course were transported to Corrientes, where we leave them in the meantime, to muse on the "strange mutations of fortune." We understand a superior officer of the *Water Witch* has arrived in this city; but whither bound, or with what mission charged, deponent saith not; possibly it may be to report progress to the Commander-in-Chief upon the station. Without presuming to raise the dense veil that shrouds futurity from the mortal ken, we cannot help foreseeing in these proceedings a prolific source of reclamations, exactions, and forcible demonstrations, that may seriously embarrass the march of the young Republic, and blight for an indefinite term the sanguine commercial anticipations so confidingly centered in Paraguay. To thicken the gloom, and "render confusion worse confounded," there are not wanting those who predict the proximate visit of an Imperial Envoy, with an escort of ten or twelve vessels-of-war, to adjust certain territorial questions, pending between the Republic and the conterminous Empire. It is to be feared that these rival reclamations may precipitate each other.

MONUMENT TO THE MURDERED BUTLER.—The citizens of Louisville have erected a monument to W. H. G. BUTLER, the teacher shot by MATT. WARD. It is an elegant piece of workmanship, built of Italian marble, and about ten feet in height. The inscriptions on its side are as follows:

WILLIAM H. G. BUTLER, born in Jefferson County, Indiana, October 2d, 1825; Died at Louisville, Ky., Nov. 5, 1852.

On the reverse:

A man without fear and without reproach; of gentle and retiring disposition; of clear and vigorous mind; an accomplished scholar; a devoted and successful teacher; a meek and humble Christian.

On the north side:

He fell by the hand of violence in the presence of his loving pupils—a martyr to his fidelity in the discharge of duty.

On the south side:

This monument is erected by his pupils and a bereaved community, to show their appreciation of his worth, and to perpetuate their horror at his murder.

MONUMENT TO THE VIRGIN.—It is said that the Pope of Rome has decreed that, in order to perpetuate the memory of the proclamation of the Immaculate conception, a column, surmounted by a statue of the Virgin Mary, shall be erected on the Piazza de Spagna, before the College of the Propaganda. The magnificent marble column which has for a long time been lying behind the Palace of Inquisition, is to be used for the purpose; and the execution of the work is to be entrusted to M. OBICI, an eminent Italian sculptor.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

☞ Have You a Cough?—Use Dr. McCLINTOCK'S CELEBRATED PECTORAL SYRUP. It heals ulceration, destroys tubercles in the lungs, stops pain the breast, checks night sweats, strengthens the stomach and renders the most inveterate coughs, while it contains no opium or other narcotic substance whatever. Price $1 per pint bottle. A. CUSHMAN & CO., Proprietors, No. 128 Fulton-st. Sold by Hegeman, Clark & Co., No. 165 Broadway; Hoskins, No. 10 Astor House; Bailey, No. 9 Bible House, and all Druggists. Also, Dr. McCLINTOCK'S COLD AND COUGH MIXTURE, for common colds, sore throat, and croup, price 25 cts.; and Dr. McCLINTOCK'S ASTHMA AND HOOPING-COUGH REMEDY, price 50 cts. For sale as above.

☞ Fruit and Ornamental Trees and Plants.—Including everything necessary to the Garden, Orchard, Nursery and Orchard, with all the rare introductions, at very low rates. Descriptive price Catalogues gratis. Carriage paid to New-York. Ornamental and other planting done in any part of the country. Address B. M. WATSON Old Colony Nurseries, Plymouth, Mass.

☞ Radcliff's Russian Salve—25 Cents a Box.—A Boston remedy of 30 years' standing—a sure and speedy cure for Burns, Scalds, Boils and all external injuries; recommended by physicians. Sold by all druggists in the United States. A. B. & D. SANDS, C. V. CLICKENER & CO., C. H. RING, New-York; and WM. R. HIRSHEY, Philadelphia.

OFFICE OF ASSOCIATION, Jan. 10, 1855.

☞ The Poor.—At the Monthly Meeting of the Managers of the "Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor," complete returns were received from every District, and from each of the 221 Sections. Never before, it is believed, have essential duties been more promptly and faithfully performed. The most remarkable feature in the Reports is the enlarged amount of relief, the expenditure having been double that of the corresponding month of the past year, occasioned chiefly by the great increase of assistance to respectable mechanics and laborers, during the present distress. Aid has been freely, but not profusely or indiscriminately given. Careful investigation, in regard to all new and doubtful cases, has preceded relief. It was resolved that the following abstract of the labors of the previous month be published, viz.:

Number of families relieved	4,270
Number of persons relieved	19,218
Number of visits	9,426

Relief and appropriations, $18,120 20.

It may be added for the information of persons unacquainted with the Institution, that it is now, as during the past eleven years, in effective operation. 1,221 visitors are distributed so as to cover the whole Island, from river to river, and from the Battery to King's Bridge. By this minute division of labor and responsibility, it is prepared, so far as the means shall last, to mete out very proper want of the needy. The laborious yet inestimable services of the visitors are entirely gratuitous.

The arrangements for the attainment of its objects are, first, a division of the City into twenty-two districts, corresponding with the Wards, and the appointment of an Advisory Committee of five persons in each; and next, by a further division of the districts into 221 sections, and the appointment of a visitor to each section.

Thus it will be seen that the diversified labors of each district are confided to the careful supervision and control of a separate Committee, and that each section has its visitor, whose field of labor is compact and well-defined, which admits of his personal attention to all the needy therein. For in whatever part of the City the needy apply to the members of the Association for aid, by means of a directory and printed tickets, they are sent back to their appropriate section and visitor, whose proximity to the residence of the applicants enables him, by personal visitation and inquiry, to extend, withhold or modify relief, on well-defined principles, according to the deserts and necessities of every case.

Assistance is thus rendered, not only with great caution but with great accuracy and delicacy, for it is unknown to any except the visitor and grocer. No agitation, consequently, follows such relief, nor is it the means of undermining one right principle, or of embolding one well directed impulse.

Every annual subscriber becomes a member of the Association, and the smallest contributor is entitled to just as large a use of its privileges as the most munificent.

Directories and tickets may be obtained at the office, No. 89 Bible House, or of the officers of the Association.

By order of the Board.

JAMES BROWN, President.

R. M. HARTLEY, Secretary.

GEORGE GRIswOLD, JAMES BOORMAN, HORACE ALLEN, JAMES LENOX, A. B. WETMORE, } Vice-Presidents.

ROBERT B. MINTURN, Treasurer.

Chairmen and Secretaries of the Ward Committees.

West.	East.
1. J. C. Ramsay, 137 Cedar-st.	19. J. W. Bishop, 408 Grand-st.
2. Geo. W. Abbe, 43 John-st.	14. A. W. Murray, 149 Prince-st.
Geo. Hall, 346 William-st.	Wm. Gray, 422 Broome-st.
3. W. R. Jones, 42 Murray-st.	16. T. Denny, 11 Clinton-place.
Edw. Pratt, 49 Laight-st.	I. Orchard, 17 Bedford-st.
4. A. Fordon, Jr., 87 South-st.	18. I. Jacson, 32 13th-st.
H. Whittlesey, 43 Market-st.	C. C. Darling, 149 McDougal-st.
5. A. R. Wetmore, 61 Vesey-st.	17. S. C. Lynes, 17 St. Mark's-place.
Edw. Pratt, 49 Laight-st.	H. Horton, 442 Fourth-st.
6. A. C. Everest, 117 White-st.	10. J. R. Mather, 144 East 13th-st.
A. Camp, 47 Franklin-st.	J. B. Ballard, corner 22d-st. and 2d-av.
7. J. H. Griscom, M. D., 129 East Broadway.	19. O. W. Morris, 20 E. 16th-st.
J. B. Horton, 294 Mad'n-st.	E. Mack, corner 35th-st. and 3d-av.
8. J. B. Collins, 97 W. 11th-st.	20. C. H. Rusher, 308 West 19th-st.
W. Kipp, 129 Thompson-st.	Richard Hayler, 328 West 21st-st.
9. J. O. Pond, M. D., 47 6th-av.	21. J. W. Benedict, 97 Madison-av.
L. R. Jackson, 119 Hudson-st.	J. B. Ballard, corner 22d-st. and 2d-av.
10. J. Horn, 9 Chrystie-st.	22. A. M. Lyon, 172 West 43d-st.
J. W. Munroe, 65 Bowery.	E. Mack, corner 35th-st. and 3d-av.
11. A. Mills, 441 Fourth-st.	
J. H. Bolen, 281 Hudson-st.	
12. R. C. Andrus, Harlem.	
J. L. Ambler, 3d-av., near 121st-st.	
13. L. Chichester, 303 East Broadway.	

☞ The Committee consisting of Hiram Ketchum, Geo. Wood, John Van Buren, John A. Lott, Franc s B. Cutting, Benjamin F. Butler, Henry S. Dodge and Joseph S. Varnum, Jr., appointed by a meeting of the members of the Bar, of the cities of New-York and Brooklyn, held in the month of October last, were directed, in the event of its being ascertained that the Government of Paraguay had not received, in the steamship *Arctic*, whose fate was then unknown, had perished in consequence of the wreck of that vessel, to call another meeting of the Bar, in reference to the subject.

Having waited until more than three months after the disaster, without any tidings of the arrival of either, the Committee are reluctantly compelled to abandon all hope of their safety; and in the discharge of the duty assigned to them, they now invite the members of the Bar of New-York and Brooklyn to meet at the room of the Court of Common Pleas, in the City Hall of the City of NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, the 13th instant, punctually, at 2 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of uniting in a tribute of respect to the memory of EDWARD SANDFORD, ABNER BENEDICT and HENRY A. BEADY, Esqrs.

In behalf of the Committee,

B. F. BUTLER, Chairman.

HENRY S. DODGE, JOSEPH S. VARNUM, JR., } Secretaries.

JANUARY, 10, 1855.

☞ At a Meeting of the Second National Guard, held at their Armory, Broadway House, Jan. 11, 1855, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, An all-seeing Providence has again visited our ranks and taken from our midst, by death, another of our members, in the spring-time and bloom of life.

Resolved, That in the demise of our companion in arms, ISAAC GRAHAM, we are called upon to mourn the loss of a true and faithful soldier, an upright citizen and a beloved brother.

Resolved, That to the family of the deceased we tender our sincere and heartfelt condolence in this their bereavement, assurance of love to his aged mother, and to friends, who, in this dispensation of the Almighty are deprived of a dutiful son and an endeared brother.

Resolved, That the Armory of this Corps be draped in crape, and that we wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and that they be published in the *New-York Daily Times*, *Herald* and *Churchman*.

ALEXANDER SHALER, Commandant.

SAMUEL BIGELOW, Jr., Secretary.

☞ Mercantile Library Association.—REGULAR NOMINATIONS FOR 1855.

For President.

GEO. C. WOOD.....with.....Dibblee, Work & Moore.

For Vice-President.

JOHN CREBAR.....with.....C. B. Raymond & Co.

For Corresponding Secretary.

WM. H. GILDER.....with.....Lewis B. Brown & Co.

For Recording Secretary.

HENRY A. THOMAS.....with.....Bank for Savings.

For Treasurer.

WM. H. TAYLOR.....with.....Central Bank.

For Directors.

ALEX. P. FISKE.....with.....Jas. & Henry McBride.
ROWLAND H. TIMPSON.....with.....Philip Dater & Co.
J. LAWRENCE ELDER.....with.....M. Hollander.
WM. H. WICKHAM.....with.....U. S. Steamship Co.
JOHN H. NICHOLS.....with.....Backus Osborne & Co.
WM. L. SEAMAN.....with.....Richards, Haight & Co.
WM. H. BANES.....with.....Warren & Co.
H. L. PIERSON, Jr., Chairman of Committee.

WM. S. COLLINS, Secretary.

☞ Mercantile Library Association.—REGULAR NOMINATIONS, 1855.

For President.

FRANK W. BALLARD.....with.....A. & A. Lawrence & Co.

For Vice-President.

JOHN CREBAR.....with.....C. B. Raymond & Co.

For Corresponding Secretary.

JOSEPH C. MORTON.....with.....Smith, Van Horn & Co.

For Recording Secretary.

GEO. S. PARTRIDGE, Jr., with.....Martin & Lawson.

For Treasurer.

WILLIAM H. TAYLOR.....with.....Central Bank.

For Directors.

FLOYD CLARKSON.....with.....Cornelle & Willis.
JOSEPH F. HANFORD.....with.....Jacob Halsted.
HENRY H. HYDE.....with.....Mutual Life Ins. Co.
G. A. ARROUX, Jr.....with.....Alex. T. Stewart & Co.
WM. W. WICKHAM.....with.....U. S. M. Steamship Co.
J. LAWRENCE ELDER.....with.....M. Hollander.
WM. CAMPBELL.....with.....Columbian Foundry.

WM. A. MARTEN, Chairman.

S. M. OSTRANDER, Secretary.

☞ Eighteenth Ward Relief Committee.—A depot has been opened in the basement of the Dermitt Department, corner of the 2d-av. and 23d-st., for the reception of articles of old clothing or bedding; liquors, fish, wine, flour, pork, groceries, or food of any kind, which the charitable and humane can spare from their abundance. Such articles will be sent for by the Committee if desired, by a written notice left at the Depository or with either of the Committees or the undersigned.

VALENTINE G. HALL, Chairman, No. 16 Gramercy-park, 20th-st.

JAS. C. HOLDEN, Secretary, No. 60 Beekman-st.

☞ Thirteenth Ward Relief Association.—There will be a meeting of this Association held at Onderdonk's Hall, No. 466 Grand-st., THIS EVENING, 12th inst., at 7 o'clock. The citizens of the Ward are respectfully invited to be present, as there will be a financial exposition of the affairs of the Association.

JOHN H. BRIGGS, President.

WM. H. MCCREELIS, Secretary.

☞ Eighth Anti-Slavery Lecture at the Tabernacle, TUESDAY EVENING, Jan. 16, by Rev. HENRY WARD BEECHER. Subject—Conflict between Northern and Southern Theories of Slavery. Admission 25c.

☞ Westminster Church.—Rev. Dr. KEENE will preach in Westminster Church, 22d-st., near 9th-av., on SABBATH EVENING, 14th inst. Subject—The Early Dead. Service will commence at 7½ o'clock.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

☞ Thirteenth Ward Relief Association.—The Finance Committee, in behalf of the Association, tender their acknowledgments of sundry donations made by the Trustees and Members of the M. E. Church, of Willett-st., for their very response to the demands made by the Organization upon their Charity, and for their evidence of active and practical sympathy with those so severely visited by the liberal contribution of two hundred dollars and thirty-eight cents ($200 38) made on the afternoon of Sunday, 7th inst., to augment the Funds previously collected by the Association, to relief the many destitute and poverty-stricken beings within this Ward. By Order of the Finance Committee.

DANIEL P. SAMMIS, Treasurer.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 11, 1855.

☞ Special Notice.—At 12 o'clock precisely, THIS DAY, Friday, Jan. 12, in satisfaction of a judgment issued from the Supreme Court, WATERBURY & DYER, Auctioneers, will sell at their store, 12 costly and splendid gold watches, costing to import from $200 to $400 each.

☞ Mechanics' Society Lectures, 1854-5.—FIRST COURSE.—Commencing at 7½ o'clock.

Jan. 15.—Rev. THOMAS STARR KING.....Substance and Shadow.
Jan. 22.—JAMES T. BRADY, Esq.....Tried by Jury.

J. A. BUNTING, Chairman.

☞ A Balloting of the Senior Class, Yale College, on Wednesday, Jan. 10, resulted in the election for Class Valedictorian—ADOLPHE BAILEY, Versailles, ville, La.; for Class Poet—LYMAN D. BREWSTER, Salisbury, Conn.

☞ The Parker Vein Coal Company.—Stockholders' right to subscribe to stock in the American Coal Company expires TO-DAY, when the books will close. Subscriptions are received at W. & J. O'BRIEN'S, No. 30 Wall-st.

PERSONAL.

INFORMATION WANTED.—Respecting WILLIAM DAVIS, who left his home on Monday evening, Jan 8, under the state of mental derangement. He is 28 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, dark complexion, black hair and whiskers; he wore a black hat, brown overcoat, black pantaloons, black satin vest, and brown plaid pants. Any information respecting him will be thankfully received by his bereaved wife, No. 164 9th-st., New-York.

MARIA DAVIS.

WANTED.

SITUATION WANTED.—By a respectable colored woman, as child's nurse, or as chamber-maid and to do plain sewing in a private family. Good City reference can be given. Apply at No. 171 Wooster-st., in the basement.

NURSE.—Wanted, by a middle-aged woman, a situation as nurse. An excellent nurse to take charge of an infant. Apply at her last situation, No. 194 West 27th-st.

A RESPECTABLE YOUNG ENGLISHMAN, aged 21, wishes to obtain a situation in a dry-goods house or in a merchant's office as clerk. Writes a good hand, is quick and accurate at accounts, and has a five years' character from his employers. Address C. G. F., at this office.

TWO WELSH GIRLS, cook and chambermaid, with good City references, can be obtained at the office of the American and Foreign Employment Office, Nos. 13 and 14 Bible House, Astor-place. Also, several American and Scotch girls, for general housework; German domestics, and others. Also men and boys, at the lower Office, No. 27 Greenwich-st.

TO THOSE OUT OF EMPLOYMENT.—BROWN & GORHAM, No. 47 Dey-st., can employ a few more men who have a small capital of $10. Address a letter with 13 cents stamps, or call at the office. Full particulars and specimen by return mail. Five dollars per day may be realized.

HOUSEKEEPER.—Wanted by a middle-aged lady from New-England, a situation as housekeeper or matron. The best of references can be given. Apply by letter to F. K., Box No. 2,867 New-York Post-Office.

LAD WANTED.—Of good address, 15 to 17 years of age. Must be active, intelligent, and a fair penman. Call after 4 o'clock P. M. Will DAVID HAIGHT please call.

S. WILLISTON & CO., No. 65 Maiden-lane, M floor.

BOOK-KEEPER WANTED.—Who writes a good hand and is quick at figures. Address, post-paid, stating real name, reference and amount of salary required, Box No. 1,319, Post-Office.

SEXTON.—Wanted, the Sextonship of a Church, by a man who can give good references as to character and other qualifications. Address F. W. DAY, No. 112 8th-av.

JOHN YOUNG—Agent of the Protestant Employment Society, having closed the Bowery office, will supply all orders for servants from No. 7 Carmine-st.

FOOT LATHE WANTED.—Must be a well-made Lathe in good order and very cheap for cash. Address J. M. H., at this office, stating price, size, &c.

OWNER WANTED.—For the proceeds of an anchor sent to us about ten months ago.

W. GREENOUGH & CO., No. 169 Wall-st.

BOARDING.

BOARDING.—Two gentlemen friends can obtain partial board and a fine, large double-bedded room, with large closets, gas and every convenience, in a small, private family, residing in Court-st., Brooklyn. The house is new and comfortably furnished, and convenient to Wall and Nassau Ferries. The family be in the habit of taking gentlemen boarders. Address, for two days, H. A. C., Post Office.

BOARDING.—Two or three gentlemen can be accommodated with pleasant rooms and good board by applying at No. 77 Willow-st., Brooklyn Heights. Terms moderate. Reference exchanged.

BOARDING.—Two gentlemen can be accommodated with pleasant rooms, with gaslight; breakfast and tea during the week, and full board on Sunday. Apply at No. 19 8th-st., near the 6th-av.

BOARDING.—Transient and permanent Board; also Room without board. Terms reasonable. No. 1 1st-st., corner of the Bowery.

BOARDING.—Three respectable young men may have partial board in a private family in 7th-st. For an interview, address BROWN, at this office.

BOARDING.—Gentlemen can be accommodated with Board, single Rooms, or one elegant room, at No. 87 Hudson-st. Price $3 and $3 50; day boarders $2 50.

BOARD IN SOUTH BROOKLYN.—Two gentlemen can be accommodated with first rate furnished bedrooms in South Brooklyn, with breakfast and tea, for $4 each per week; or a gentleman and his wife for $12, dinner for the lady only. The rooms are well furnished, with grate, but no gas. The prices mentioned not to include fire or light. Family small and private. Address FRANK, at this office.

BOARD IN BROOKLYN.—The advertiser would like into his family one or two gentlemen, who might expect a comfortable and quiet home, in a small family, and on moderate terms. The house is situated within a short distance of either Montague or South Ferry. Address S. T., Box No. 1,121 Post-Office.

BOARDING UP TOWN.—Can be had at No. 47 West 29th-st., near Broadway, with a very elegant suite of rooms on the first landing. Also, commodious chambers for gentlemen and their wives, and for single gentlemen. The house is of the first class, with all the modern improvements.

HANDSOMELY FURNISHED ROOMS TO LET.—To single gentlemen, with full or partial board in a private family; a new English basement house with all the modern improvements. Also a suit of offices on first floor, furnished, suitable for a first-class physician. Inquire at No. 119½ 9th-st., four doors west of Broadway, (middle house.)

FURNISHED APARTMENTS TO LET.—At No. 58 President-st., South Brooklyn, three minutes' walk from Hamilton Ferry. Partial board if desired.

ROOMS WANTED.—A furnished room and bedroom, with partial board, in a private family, between Fulton and Harrison-sts., Brooklyn. Address BROOKLYN, Times Office, for three days, stating terms.

ROOMS TO LET.—A pleasant parlor (frescoed) front, fronting on Broadway, with a bedroom attached, at No. 528 Broadway, corner of 124h-st. Rent, $180 per annum.

106 GRAMERCY PARK, (East 21st-st.)—PRIVATE BOARDING.—A handsome suite of rooms on the second floor will be vacated on the 15th January, 1855.

RELIEF FOR THE POOR.

MEETING FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR IN THE SIXTEENTH WARD.—At a meeting of the citizens of the Ward at Kinnie's Rocky Hill, on Wednesday evening, 3d inst., WASHINGTON R. VERMILYE was called to the Chair, and EDWARD P. CLARK appointed Secretary. The meeting determined to form an association for the relief of the poor, and the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee for the purpose of collecting subscriptions, and making the necessary arrangements for carrying on the objects of the Association.

Ald. THOMAS CHESTER, Chairman.
WM. H. SMITH, Treasurer.
EDWARD P. CLARK, Secretary.

A. W. Bradford,	J. N. Wells,	W. E. Wildermuth,
J. W. Ramsy, M. D.	Morris Hilger,	R. W. Vermilye,
Thos. A. Dunlap,	C. N. Bailey, M. D.	P. H. Williams,
W. F. Havermeyer,	John Bigelow,	Joseph Tucker,
James Warren,	George Clark,	John P. Brown,
Francis Mace,	J. W. Ramsy, MD.	C. E. Moses,
W. B. Church, MD.	John N. Genin,	Wm. S. Hunt,
Samuel Hopper,	Jacob S. Moore,	D. McMasters,
Jas. T. Mosston,	S. M. Hasted,	Lewis Gregory,
D. A. Cushman,	James Horner,	W. Smith.
	H. W. Sinley,	

W. R. VERMILYE.

EDWARD P. CLARK, Secretary.

TWENTIETH WARD RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—What shall be done? If we continue to supply the applicants for food we must have funds; and a large amount of funds will be needful to meet the numerous and daily increasing appeals made at the Depot. Shall these appeals be urged in vain? And shall we be compelled to close the Depot for lack of means? Let the friends of the poor immediately answer by sending aid, either in money, clothes, or food to the Depot, in 23d-st., (2nd door west of 8th-av.)

ROBERT RAY, President of Ex. Com.

JOHN F. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

SIXTH WARD RELIEF ASSOCIATION.—The Storehouse of this Association will be open daily, from 10 to 3 o'clock, at Nos. 44 and 46 Duane-st., near Centre-st. Donations in money, clothing or provisions, will be received at the Storehouse, or by the Treasurer, No. 88 Elizabeth-st.

HENRY H. HOWARD, Chairman.

L. JACOBS, Secretary.
OWEN W. BRENNAN, Treasurer.

WALCOTT BROTHERS—MANUFACTURERS OF THE CELEBRATED GRADUATING BUTTON-HOLE CUTTERS.—Have this day reduced the prices of these goods full 33½ per cent., so as to bring them within the means of every one, and into use in every family. These Cutters can be found in all the principal hardware and fancy goods stores in this City and throughout the country, and of wholesale in the hands of P. W. GALLAUDET, Sole Agent for the manufacturers, of No. 75 John-st., New-York.

MY DEAR, HE HAD A LOVE OF A MOUSTACHE!—No wonder, he used GRAHAM'S ONGUENT, which will force the beard or moustaches to grow strong and thick in six weeks and will not stain or injure the skin. $1 a bottle, sent to any part of the country. R. G. GRAHAM, No. 107 Nassau-st.; ZIEBER, No. 44 South-st.; Philadelphia; BRIGGS, No. 21 Bowery; WM. BARINGER, Hudson, N. Y.; SPALDING, No. 37 Tremont-row, Boston.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.—That a certain Promissory Note made by me, dated San Francisco, Aug. 1, 1854, for $12,500—drawn to the order of F. Dana, and payable on the 1st day of April, 1855, for certain reasons will not be paid by me.

H. A. LYONS.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE WORLD A WORKSHOP.

D. APPLETON & CO., Nos. 346 AND 348 BROADWAY, PUBLISH THIS DAY.

THE WORLD A WORKSHOP,
OR, THE PHYSICAL RELATIONS OF MAN TO THE EARTH.

BY THOMAS SWINBURNE, author of "Hydraulics and Mechanics."

1 vol. 12mo. Price 75 cents.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the Boston Traveller.

This is no ordinary work, but one which we have read throughout with deep interest. Whilst its main scope and design is to illustrate the native dignity of all enlightened labor, by man's physical relationship to the earth, it reviews with full and ample knowledge the already ascertained facts in science; discusses its original views on a variety of mechanical questions; its greatest value, however, resting in its suggestiveness. Its tendency, too, is practically religious, and the author shows from man's nature and the physical circumstances by which he is surrounded, the wise adaptation of means to the end to be accomplished, in a variety of ways never hitherto considered. We recommend the work to the perusal of every mechanic and man of science.

From the Cities Branch.

This will be found to be one of the most able and useful productions of the day.

From the Boston Journal.

The work bears the marks of deep thought and study, and abounds in interesting facts.

From the New-Orleans Crescent.

A great deal of very valuable information is condensed into this volume.

HIGH LIFE IN NEW-YORK.

BY JONATHAN SLICK, ESQ.

To Zephaniah Slick, Esq., Justice of the Peace and Deacon to the Church over to Wethersfield, in the State of Connecticut.

SIXTH EDITION—15,000 COPIES SOLD.

A hearty laugh is the sure reward of every reader of this inexpressibly funny volume. It depicts the adventures and vicissitudes, in fashionable society, of a "live Yankee," fresh from the onion-beds of Wethersfield, who describes all he sees and encounters in the richest Yankee and with the rarest humor. It is, in brief, a book of infinite jest and most comical fancy. Humorously illustrated. 12mo. Price, 75 cents; cheap edition, 50 cents.

BUNCE & BROTHER, No. 134 Nassau-st.

ART AND LITERATURE.

Subscribe for the

KNICKERBOCKER MAGAZINE,

and get a Ticket in the distribution of Works of Art, to take place in Sandusky, Ohio, on the 20th inst.

Subscribers received by T. L. MAGAGNOS, No. 2 Astor House, and at the Knickerbocker Office, No. 348 Broadway, up stairs. Catalogues to be had gratis.

JUST PUBLISHED,
Price, 12½ cents.

THE MECHANIC,
A Poem: By a Worker.

For sale by STRINGER & TOWNSEND, No. 222 Broadway, and DEWITT & DAVENPORT, No. 160 Nassau-st.

FIFTH THOUSAND.

IK MARVEL'S FUDGE DOINGS.

FUDGE DOINGS—Being Tony Fudge's Record of the same, in 40 chapters. By IK MARVEL. Two vols., with two illustrations by DARLEY.

From the New-York Commercial.

They are characterized by the same keen perception of social follies, the same genial satire, and the same idiosyncratic and natural style that has been so successfully used in previous editions by IK MARVEL; but even manifest a broader mental culture and more ample knowledge of the world.

From the Albany Argus.

The work is thoroughly saturated with the keenest wit.

From the New-Bedford Mercury.

The happy hits at fashionable folly, at maternal weakness, the quiet ridicule of worldly ways, and the essentials of the best morals, with the ring of a true manly heart through all, give our American Elia his own place in our homes, in which he leaves his benediction of a lighter heart and more grateful spirit. Ik Marvel will reap new laurels from these volumes.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

A racy and graphic pen, with touches of humor and sentiment, which go straight to the reader's sense. Illustrations.

From the Hartford Courant.

It is full of a certain kind of quaint, descriptive humor, that is unlike that of any living writer.

From the Richmond Examiner.

A continuous story, modeled after Thackeray's, and a capital story of fashionable life, trenchantly severe upon the follies and extravagances of the times, and clear, racy and piquant from beginning to end.

From the Boston Courier.

It is as rich in its quiet and earnestness prose, as its famous predecessor was substantial in poetical verse.

From the Troy Whig.

With all the vigor and raciness which characterizes the pen of the Author of "Reveries of a Bachelor" and "Dream Life," there is mingled in these volumes much pointed and well-meaning, though not bitter, satire.

Ik Marvel has the happy faculty of his heretofore dreamy and quiet style, and shows that he possesses the power to wield the scalpel as well as throw the golden shuttle. The finished sketches of his nature—as of it were a Dante in Dodo—his portraits, and the quiet, yet pointed, Sidonoides his sting into modern follies is perfectly delightful.

From the New-York Tribune.

Its quiet humor and spicy relish will attract his old admirers to its perusal.

CHARLES SCRIBNER, No. 145 Nassau-st.

CASH MUSIC STORE.
MUSIC AT REDUCED PRICES.

HORACE WATERS, Music Publisher and Dealer, of No. 333 Broadway, has determined not only to sell music at half price during the month of January, as he has heretofore advertised, but from this time to sell all of his new copyrights at that rate, and also to make a large reduction from former prices on all of his copyrights, which latter comprises many of the great and most popular works of the first Harmonists and American composers, in defiance of the face of almost the unanimous opposition of the trade, but with the belief that it is one which the public will sustain, and that the public will frown upon all combinations or monopolies organized for the purpose of imposing on purchasers undue or disproportioned profits. He has also made an enormous reduction in the prices of his celebrated Pianos, Melodeons, and musical instruments of all kinds. Superior toned Pianos for $170, interior of as good quality and the entire instruments as strong and as durable as those which cost $500. Also, for $195, $200, $215, $225, $250, $275, and $275, and those of every variety of style and price, comprising Pianos of ten different manufactories. Second-hand Pianos at great bargains; prices from $40 to $150. Celebrated Melodeons from $50 to $150 each.

N. B.—Music sent to all parts of the country, post paid, at the above greatly reduced rates. General and select catalogues and schedule of prices of musical instruments furnished to any add ess, free of charge. Dealers, Teachers and Schools supplied on the very best terms.

CASH MUSIC STORE.
MUSIC AT THE REDUCED PRICES.

WM. HALL & SON, No. 239 Broadway, (opposite the Park,) have in addition to the great reductions already made on their non-copyright music, to take place on the 1st instant, reductions on their copyrights, which consist of all the principal works of the favorite and celebrated composers, Wm. Vincent Wallace, Geo. F. Root, J. A. Fowler, Francis H. Brower, Wm. Dressler, &c. &c. A large majority of the music publishers of New-York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, having combined against us in order to prevent the public from receiving the benefit of our great reduction, have refused to supply our orders for their music, or to sell music at any price to us. We will, however, to any person who will sell at the reduced prices. For a short time our stock may be incomplete, but we will at once proceed to republish all the non-copyright pieces of their catalogues at the reduced prices, and we have no doubt but we will soon find the trade willing to sell us what we want. We have determined to sell to the public at the lowest prices, consistent with a remunerative profit to the publisher and dealer, or teacher, and will neither enter into, or submit to any combination for a contrary purpose. A corrected edition of our new catalogue, with the reduced prices, will be ready in a few days, and will be forwarded to any part of the United States free of charge. Dealers, seminaries and teachers supplied on the lowest terms.

MUSIC! GREAT CHANCE.

HORACE WATERS, Music Publisher and Dealer, of No. 333 Broadway, will present as a New-Year's Gift for one dollar, a worth of music, to be selected at his office, of the publications from his extensive catalogue, to any person, to the amount specified, viz.: BIRTH OF THE MORNING, 25 cents; DOWN BY THE PEBBLY SHORE, duet, 30 cents; THEY TELL ME THY HEART IS CHANGED, ballad, 25 cents; SPARKLING POLKA, 25 cents; and RIPPLING BROOK POLKA MAZOURKA, 25 cents.

A PAPER FOR THE MILLION.

Just published, the first number of a new Nautical and Literary Paper, entitled

THE AMERICAN PRIVATEERSMAN.

The first number will contain the beginning of a new Nautical Romance, entitled

NEW-YORK CITY.

[illegible] Mr. E. Dorsey held a good [illegible] on Tuesday evening, in the Shakspeare [illegible] to take into consideration the difficulties between some of the men and their employers, in relation to wages. It appears from the statements made by some of the members who addressed the meeting, that within the last three months three of the merchant ship-owners of South-street have reduced the wages of their workmen two shillings per day. The latter refused to accept the reduced rate, in consequence of which they were dismissed from those concerns, and others unacquainted with the business have been taken to work in their room. Considerable discussion took place on the subject. The matter was viewed from every point; this, it was contended, was a most unfavorable time to take advantage of poor men, or curtail their wages; it was the dullest season of the year, and business this season, in particular, was unusually depressed; they could not, in consequence of the scarcity of employment, average more than three days a week, and that at the regular rate (fourteen shillings per day) would be $6 25; they were fortunate if they made that.

A vote of thanks was next moved to the merchants who are giving the wages, which was carried unanimously, after which a fund was collected for the relief of those who were standing but for their wages, when the meeting adjourned.

Fatal Accident—Death on the Harlem and Hudson River Railroads.

A fatal accident occurred yesterday on the Hudson River Railroad. A family of Germans, consisting of the mother and two children, who arrived in New-York on the 9th inst., while walking upon the Hudson River Railroad track, in the vicinity of Smyter's Bay, were overtaken by the 5 o'clock Express train, when the mother was instantly killed. Her name was unknown. The body was conveyed to the Railroad Depôt, at Thirty-first-street, and the children to the Station-house, where they were properly taken care of.

When the 5 o'clock P. M. Harlem Railroad train arrived at the Depôt at Forty-second-street and Fourth-avenue, an unknown man was found dead on the cow-catcher. The discovery was not made until the train reached the Depôt. There was found in his possession a bundle of the Union-square Real Estate Circulars, and also a $2 50 gold piece in his pocket. The circumstances connected with this man's death are as yet wrapped in mystery.

A woman named BRIDGET TRACY, about 30 years of age, was accidentally run over while crossing Twenty-eighth-street and Eighth-avenue, by a lumber wagon. Her head was seriously bruised. She was taken to her residence, where she is now doing well.

Arrival of Commodore Perry.

Among the arrivals in the City yesterday was Commodore M. C. PERRY, on his return to this country from the command of the Japan squadron. The *Baltic* arrived at the wharf foot of Canal-street about 6 o'clock last evening, and soon after landing the Commodore proceeded in a carriage to the Astor House, where he was received by Col. STETSON. After partaking of a supper he was visited by several gentlemen, who had anticipated his arrival, and by whom he was heartily welcomed on his return to his native land. The Commodore is not a little bronzed from exposure during his lengthened absence. He is in excellent health and spirits, and indeed we have seldom seen him appear better. Owing to a slight indisposition he retired to rest at an early hour last evening.

We hear that a proposition has been made to give Commodore PERRY a public reception in the Governor's Room soon.

Chess.

The lovers of Chess are aware that efforts have been put forth, at various times, to establish and sustain Chess Clubs, and that attempts have been made to introduce the practice of the game among the classes formed by the City Library Associations. None of these have been successful. Another movement is now on foot. The New-York Club has determined to hold regular sessions at the rooms of M. F. PERRIN, its Secretary, No. 158 East Tenth-street. Chess, unlike other games, has no chance about it; the sharpest fellow mentally is the winner. It is a safe game to play.

Police.

The Chief of Police of Syracuse had a private conference with Chief MATSELL, last evening, at his office. He was shown the operation of the Telegraph by the night operator, Mr. OWENS, and seemed highly pleased with its workings. The Chief returns to Syracuse to-day.

We understand that the Captains of Police and attaches of the Chief's office intend to present Mr. MACKELLAR, late Clerk to the Chief of Police, with a suitable testimonial as a token of their esteem for him in the faithful manner in which he has discharged his duties.

An Offer.

A pork-packing house in the City gives public notice that free tickets will be furnished by them which shall entitle the bearer to receive "*one Hog's Heroist.*" "Heroist," or "heaist" is defined by WEBSTER to be "the heart, liver, lights, &c., of a hog." This is a nutritious and savory dish, and the poor will be glad to avail themselves of the generous offer of the parties.

Balls to Come.

The season of balls is well patronized. The Fire Department have theirs at the Academy of Music on Monday evening next. The Astor-House Club have theirs on Wednesday at NIBLO'S. The Poor Ball takes place at the Academy on the same night. The Twelfth Regiment have appointed theirs for Monday, 22d January.

Burns' Birthday.

A preliminary meeting of the admirers of Scotia's favorite bard was held last evening in WINDUST'S Rooms, to make arrangements for the suitable celebration of his birthday, which occurs on the 25th inst. In accordance with the expressed wishes of the majority present, it was decided to hold the Anniversary at the Union Hotel, Brooklyn, where an adjourned meeting will be also held, on the evening of the 19th inst.

Complaints—The Mayor's Blue Book.

Yesterday only fifteen complaints were lodged at the Mayor's office—among which are the following:

Policeman HENRY LUCY charged with refusing to quell a riot on the 1st of January. Notified to appear before the Mayor.

JOSEPH DUTCHEARTE complained of in the matter of a sick warrant. Defendant was sent for, reprimanded and ordered to refund the money.

JOHN REDMAN, of Thirty-third-street and Third-avenue, complains of Hose Company Red Jacket congregating every Sabbath on the premises, and using profane language, greatly to the annoyance of the inhabitants. Capt. STRONG notified of the fact.

JOHN ROSS is charged with selling complainant tickets for Australia, and neglecting to forward him. Ross was notified to appear and refund the money.

The Captain of the Sixth Ward (DOWLING,) was notified to appear before the Mayor for allowing WOOD, TORRENCE & Co., No. 416 Broadway, to obstruct the sidewalk with sleighs and carriages. This has been tolerated a long time.

The remainder of the complaints are mostly in relation to the continued filthy condition of the streets.

The reports made daily to the office of the Chief of Police are as usual, filled with complaints in regard to the dirty condition of the streets.

☞ Messrs. B. E. & IRA BUCKMAN, Jr., have shown us their plan for an extension of the present City Hall to meet the growing wants of the City. It is in effect for the building of three edifices similar to the present structure, only of a greater elevation—fronting severally on the east, west and north sides of the Park, and enclosing an open space of 180 feet in diameter. While the thing is in abeyance any plans are "in order."

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

SENATE OF ALDERMEN.....TUESDAY, Jan. 11.

ISAIC O. BARKER, Esq., President, in the Chair.

The Board received the following

PETITIONS.

Of a Committee of citizens, mechanics and laborers, for employment, the same that was submitted to the Board of Councilmen at their last session, and by them referred to the Board of Aldermen. Referred to Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Of the Association for the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations for an adjustment of their tax for 1853. Referred to Committee on Finance.

Of Mr. G. Clinton and others to prohibit driving hogs through Fourth-street. Referred to Committee on Ordinances.

CITY FOGE.

Alderman HOWARD moved that the Resolutions of the Board of Councilmen relating to the removal of the New City Hall be taken up.

Alderman LOMB hoped the regular business would be proceeded with first.

On division the resolutions were taken up.

Alderman HOWARD moved a concurrence with the Board of Councilmen in the resolutions, excepting the one instructing the Aldermen and Councilmen of each Ward to furnish the Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies their proportion of the number of men required. Adopted.

Alderman DEAKE submitted a resolution asking that the Committee on Lands and Places be requested to inquire into and report the expediency of leveling off Hamilton-square and having it completely graded according to the grade lines, in order to give to laboring classes employment, and render the said square an ornament to the City. Referred as requested.

Alderman FOX submitted a resolution asking that a Special Committee be appointed to take into consideration the establishment of Ragged Schools for the education of the large number of children to be found in the streets begging and pilfering. Adopted.

The Board received the following

REPORTS.

The annual report of the Counsel to the Corporation, giving the title of all actions prosecuted or defended during the year 1854, as also all actions pending January 11, 1855.

On motion the report was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Of the Commissioner on Repairs and Supplies, in favor of concurring with the Board of Councilmen to provide the Seventh Judicial District with suitable Court rooms. Adopted.

Of Commissioner on Repairs and supplies, adverse to confirming the award for stationery. Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Of Committee on Finance—In favor of reducing tax of J. O. Phelps, A. H. Tilton, Anson B. Young, Hugh McLaughlin, Frederick Cunningham, Joseph M. Bell, and Lindley Underhill.

Of Committee on Assessments—Concurring with the Common Council, to confirm the apportionment of assessment in the matter of grading and regulating Second-avenue, from Twenty-eighth to One Hundred and Twenty-third-street. To relieve certain owners of property of the expense of opening Ninety-second-street, from Third to Fourth-avenues. Approving the apportionment of assessment for a basin and culvert at the north-west corner of Avenue B and Fourteenth-street. Approving the apportionment of assessment for opening Second-avenue; for paving Twenty-first-street, between First-avenue and East River; for sewer in Forty-ninth-street, between Sixth and Seventh-avenues.

FURNISHING BLANK BOOKS TO THE CORPORATION.

A communication was presented from the Comptroller, with the accompanying proposals, to furnish blank books to the Corporation for the ensuing year.

On motion, the same was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

CITY ADVERTISING.

Alderman HERRICK offered a resolution requesting that the Comptroller be directed to report to the Board what disposition had been made of the money collected for advertising upon the several assessment lists confirmed by the Common Council during the year 1854. Adopted.

A large number of reports of the Committee on Sewers, adopted by the Board of Common Council, were concurred in by the Board.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.

The Board received a Special Message from Mayor WOOD. [See elsewhere.]

The Board adjourned until Monday.

LONG ISLAND.

Fires in Brooklyn.

A frame building on Pacific-street, near Court, formerly occupied by a man named TIMOTHY FOX, as a dance-house, rum-shop, and Democratic headquarters for the Tenth Ward, was destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock yesterday morning. The premises were of but little value, and the destruction of the building will result in good to the neighborhood. Mr. FOX was insured for $900. The loss will not exceed that amount.

A frame house adjoining, owned by Mrs. FARRELL, and occupied by several poor families, was damaged to the extent of $500.

At 3 o'clock, yesterday morning, a house on Nelson-street, near Court, South Brooklyn, owned and occupied by JOHN VICTORY, was also destroyed by fire. Loss $1,100, which amount is covered by insurance.

Meeting of Firemen.

The Firemen of the Eastern District (Williamsburg) hold a meeting on Saturday evening next, to take action in regard to the effort now being made in the Legislature to amalgamate this Department with that of old Brooklyn. The movement of amalgamation is received with disfavor.

New Church.

A new Episcopal Church, to be called the "Church of the Redeemer," is in the course of erection on Pacific-street, corner of Fourth-avenue, Brooklyn. It promises to be quite a unique looking building, and will contain accommodation for between 400 and 500 persons. GERVASE WHEELER, Esq., is the architect. The Pastor is Rev. P. SANFORD.

Military Display.

On Wednesday evening the Brooklyn National Guard, Company B, 14th Regiment N. Y. S. M., commanded by Captain STRONG, drilled at Montague Hall, Brooklyn. The [illegible] Military Association attended upon the occasion by special invitation from Col. JESSE C. SMITH, commander of the Regiment. Mayor HALL, the President of the Common Council, with some of the Aldermen, and a large concourse of ladies were also present.

The Excise Laws.

Mayor HALL, of Brooklyn, has directed the Police to ascertain and report all places in which the traffic in intoxicating drinks is carried on, with the names of the persons keeping the same, and the names of all persons whom they observe frequenting unlicensed places.

Boy Drowned.

A little boy, son of Mrs. ANN RAFFERTY, residing in the vicinity of the Atlantic Docks, was drowned yesterday morning while aiding his mother in rescuing some clothes from the basin.

BROOKLYN CITY COURT...WEDNESDAY, Jan. 10.

Before His Honor Judge Culver.

At 10 o'clock yesterday morning the Mayor and two Supervisors, who had temporarily been holding this Court, vacated their seats, and His Honor Mayor Hall conducted Hon. Erastus D. Culver, City Judge, to his seat. After opening the Court, Judge Culver remarked, that on assuming the duties of the office, and before proceeding to business, he felt called upon to say, in answer to numerous inquiries from the bar and from suitors as to whether their business could be safely and legally in Court, in case there was any illegality in acts of the Common Council, or of the election.

He had turned his attention to the authorities on the matter and found them clear and explicit.

Judge CULVER cited authorities, and added:

But when reputation, acts and *claim, under color of an election or appointment*, all unite to establish the official character, it would seem then so far as the public and third persons are concerned, the case could not admit of a reasonable doubt.

I think, therefore, that any business coming legitimately before the Court can be safely done by the present incumbent, until, by some direct proceeding on the part of some one having a better title to the office, he is ousted.

This can only be done by a proceeding in the nature of *Quo Warranto* in behalf of the people.

The Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Bill.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—Jan. 9, 1855.

Mr. DOUGLAS asked, and by unanimous consent obtained, leave to bring in the following bill; which was read twice, referred to the Select Committee appointed on the subject, and ordered to be printed:

A BILL

To authorize and facilitate the construction of a Northern, a Southern and a Central Pacific Railroad and Magnetic Telegraph through the Territories of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That with the view of enhancing the value and facilitating the sales of the public lands to the actual settler, and to aid in the construction of suitable railroad and telegraphic communications between the Mississippi valley and the Pacific Ocean, there shall be, and it hereby is, appropriated and set apart a quantity of public land equal to the alternate sections for the space of ten miles on each side of said roads from their eastern to their western termini, as follows:

One road and telegraph, to commence on the western border of the State of Texas, and to pursue the most eligible route to the navigable waters of the Pacific within the State of California; which line shall be known as the Southern Pacific Railroad.

One road and telegraph, to commence on the western border of the State of Missouri, to pass out of Iowa, and to pursue the most eligible route to the Bay of San Francisco; which line shall be known as the Central Pacific Railroad.

And one road and telegraph, to commence on the western border of the State of Wisconsin, in the Territory of Minnesota, and pursue the most eligible route to the navigable waters of the Pacific in Oregon or Washington Territories; which line shall be known as the Northern Pacific Railroad; such lands to be selected from the sections which shall be designated in the public surveys of said land (when made) by odd numbers, and to be held and conveyed as herein provided; and in all cases when the United States may have disposed of said lands, or any part thereof, or shall from any cause be unable to convey a title thereto, the deficiency may be made up by the party or parties who may become entitled thereto from any unoccupied and unappropriated lands belonging to the United States within the distance of thirty miles of said road; *Provided, however*, That for no such deficiency within the State of California, and also in lieu of all mineral lands in said State (which are hereby excepted from the appropriation herein made) such selection may be made from any unoccupied and unappropriated lands of the United States within fifty miles of said road in the said State.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War, upon the passage of this act, to cause advertisements to be published in two newspapers in each State, and in the District of Columbia, for the period of three months, which advertisement shall invite sealed and separate proposals for the construction of each or either of said lines of road and telegraph in the manner herein provided; said advertisement shall include a copy of this act as containing the terms upon which the United States are willing to contract for the construction of either of said lines of road and telegraph, and shall require separate sealed proposals, stating specifically whether it be for the Southern, Central, or Northern line, and also—

First. The time in which the party or parties propose to construct, complete, and finish the entire road and telegraph ready for use, which period must not exceed ten years from the signing of the contract; and, also, what extent and portion thereof they propose to complete and put in operations during each and every year.

Second. The time in which such party or parties will surrender and transfer, free of cost to the United States, for the purpose of being surrendered to several States as herein provided, the said road, with its appurtenances and furniture.

Third. The sum, not exceeding three hundred dollars per mile, for carrying the United States mails daily on said road, under the direction of the Post-Office Department, for the period of fifteen years from the completion of the road; and, also, at what rate, for a like period, they will carry on said road, under the direction of the proper Department, all military and naval stores, supplies, munitions, troops, and freights of all kinds for Government purposes, which sum or rate must not exceed that now paid in the aggregate for such transportation; and from and after the expiration of said period of fifteen years, said transportation, postal, military, naval, and for every other Government purpose, shall be in like manner performed on said road, under the direction of the proper Department, at reasonable prices, not exceeding those usually paid for the time being on other first-class roads, to be ascertained by Congress in the event of disagreement between the Government and the owners of the road.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of War, under the direction of the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to contract with the party or parties whose proposals, as aforesaid, may be accepted for the full and complete construction and keeping up of either line, or each of said lines of road and telegraph; the said contract to provide for the road or roads as herein described, and also for a telegraphic line or lines on the most approved plan; and for the full and faithful performance of said contract or contracts, satisfactory security shall be taken by the Secretary of War, in the name of the United States; and all obligations, contracts, and securities, shall be binding and obligatory in law on the contracting parties according to the exact terms of their respective obligations, contracts, and undertakings; *Provided*, That in all contracts made in pursuance of this act the provisions of the act shall be taken and considered as parts of said contracts in like manner as if the same were set forth in full in said contracts.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That in making said contracts it shall be stipulated that, for sake of convenience, the said roads shall be divided into sections of one hundred miles each, and that none of said lands shall be conveyed to the contractors until one of those sections shall be completed and put in successful operation; when the President shall convey by patent to the contractors three-fourths of the land pertaining to the section so completed, retaining the other fourth as security for the completion of the next section of one hundred miles; and when the second section shall be complete, the President shall, in like manner, convey to the contractors three-fourths of the land pertaining to that section, together with the remaining fourth as the previous section, and so with each section, conveying three-fourths and retaining one-fourth as security for the completion of the next, until the last section of the road shall be finished and put in operation, when the President shall convey to the contractors the residue of the lands; and it shall also be stipulated in said contracts that the mails shall at all times be carried on said roads under the direction of the Post Office Department, and that all other transportation for the use of the United States, as provided in this act, shall be performed under the direction of the proper department, and that the compensation therefor, at the prices specified in said contracts, in pursuance of this act, shall be regularly paid from the treasury of the United States quarterly, or at such times as shall be agreed upon; *Provided*, That no money shall be advanced, nor shall any such compensation be made until the service, to the extent of the payment so made, shall have been first performed.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That should any contracting party or parties substantially fail, neglect, or refuse to prosecute the work undertaken by said party or parties, in a manner to secure the completion thereof in compliance with their contract, and within the time stipulated, or should such party or parties violate the terms of the contracts, then all rights of said party or parties to said road, right of way, or property, shall be and become forfeited to the United States, and the United States may and shall enter upon and possess the same. In the event of such forfeiture, to be determined by the Secretary of War, with the approval of the President, said Secretary of War shall proceed to relet the work remaining under such forfeited contract, in such manner as will secure its earliest completion, in conformity with the provisions of this act: *Provided*, That said Secretary shall not stipulate on the part of the United States for any higher or other terms than are herein expressly authorized and provided.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the party or parties with whom the contract or contracts aforesaid shall be made, shall proceed, as soon as practicable after the execution of such contract or contracts, to locate the general route of said road or roads, and fix the eastern and western terminus of the same; and as soon as such general route or routes shall be determined, which shall not be more than one year from the date of said contract or contracts, a statement thereof shall be furnished by said party or parties to the Secretary of War; and as soon as practicable thereafter, the President shall cause the public lands on each side of said route or routes, to the extent of at least forty miles, to be surveyed, and the Indian title thereto extinguished; and the provisions of the act of September, 1841, granting preemption rights, and the acts amendatory thereof, shall be, and the same are hereby, extended to such lands, saving and excepting the lands herein set apart and appropriated for the use of said road or roads, as aforesaid: *Provided, however*, That the alternate sections and parts of sections of land which by this act shall remain to the United States, within the lines of ten miles on each side of said road or roads, shall not be entered or sold, by preemption or otherwise, for less than double the minimum price of the public lands when sold.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the party or parties receiving grants of alternate sections of land, under the provisions of this act, shall be required to sell and unconditionally convey one-half of the same within five years from and after the issuing the patent for the same or any part thereof, and all lands so granted to such party or parties, and remaining the property of such party or parties, or which may be held to the use or for the benefit of such party or parties at the expiration of ten years from the date of the patents, shall be and become forfeited to the United States.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the lands of the United States, for two hundred feet wide along the entire line of said road or roads, shall be, and is hereby, set apart and dedicated as a highway for railroad and telegraph purposes; and the said party or parties may take any earth, ground, stone, timber, or other necessary materials for the construction of said roads or telegraph from any adjoining lands of the United States. All contracts made in pursuance of this act for the construction and keeping up of a railroad or roads and telegraphic line or lines, shall provide for and require the railroad or railroads to be constructed in a substantial, thorough, and workmanlike manner, with all necessary drains, culverts, bridges, viaducts, crossings, turnouts, siding, stations, watering-places, and rolling works of the road including the furniture and rolling works of the road equivalent equal in all respects to a road of the first class when prepared for business, with rails of the best quality, weighing not lessthan sixty-four pounds to the yard, and a uniform gauge throughout the entire length of each road; and shall also provide for and require a telegraphic line of the most substantial and approved description along the line of said road.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the party or parties constructing or owning either of said roads, may at any time construct, use, or occupy additional tracks along said routes within the two hundred feet herein granted for the right of way. And all connections with said road or roads shall be made under the direction of the legislature of the States and Territories respectively, in which the same shall be constructed; and no road shall be made in pursuance of this act in the State of California, without the express authority of the legislature of that State, and then only by virtue of the authority of such State.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever the said road or roads shall be surrendered to the United States in pursuance of the provisions of this act and the contracts authorized by it, thereupon so much of said road or roads as may lie within any of the States, shall vest in and become the property of the State or States within the limits of which the same may be located, subject to the use of the United States for postal, military, and all other Government service, and subject to such regulations as Congress may prescribe, prohibiting the charge for transportation thereon. And all other States recognized and admitted into the Union thereafter shall acquire the same rights, subject to like provisions and restrictions.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be established on said routes military posts, and station houses, at convenient and suitable points, garrisoned by a sufficient force to afford adequate protection to surveyors, settlers, and workmen; said posts and stations shall be deemed to be of a temporary and temporary character, yet sufficient for the purposes of defence, and to be erected by the troops of the United States, from materials to be obtained in the vicinity of the routes; said posts and stations to be increased, diminished, or changed, whenever convenient or necessary, in the opinion of the President, for the execution of the required service; and the posts and stations so erected may be used for telegraph stations until Congress shall otherwise direct.

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the military officers in command of the troops along the said routes to cause to be opened by the troops a good common road along the entire line of each of said routes, through the territories of the United States, and to keep such roads in good traveling condition, with safe bridges and ferries across the streams, to sink wells at convenient distances where required, and to protect said roads and telegraphic lines and persons employed thereon, and all emigrants, travelers, settlers, and traders along the lines while in their vicinity, from all hostilities and depredations by the Indians, so far as the same may be practicable.

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That should the Secretary of War, under the first advertisement, fail to receive proposals in compliance with the provisions of this act for making all or either of said roads, which proposals, in the opinion of the President, ought to be accepted, it shall be the duty of the said Secretary to issue new advertisements in like manner for new proposals, once in each year, until each of said railroads and telegraphic lines shall be put under contract in pursuance of the provisions of this act, unless Congress shall otherwise order and direct.

FOREIGN COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

London Markets.

Per Baltic.] LONDON, Friday, Dec. 29, 1854—5 P. M.

Owing to the Christmas Holidays, there have been no public sales in our Colonial and Foreign Produce markets during the past week, and very little business has been done privately.

Money has been in brisk demand the last day or two. Consols leave off at 91¼@91⅞, for the account; Dollars, 5s. 0½d.; Bar Silver, 5s. 1d.; Doubloons, 74s.@74s. 3d.; American Eagles, nothing doing. By the Overland Mail we have dates from Shanghai to 2d, Canton 9th, and Calcutta 17th November. Exchange at Shanghai, 6s. 3d.@6s. 3½d.; Canton, 4s. 8½d.; Calcutta, 1s. 11½d.@1s. 11¾d.

COFFEE—Some business has been done, at an advance on late sales.

In COTTON, no transactions. The following were the imports and stocks on 1st instant, compared with those of the same period last year:

	IMPORTS		STOCKS	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Chief Ports of	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Europe	319,500,000	235,700,000	85,600,000	49,400,000
Great Britain	48,200,000	37,100,000	27,400,000	23,000,000
Totals	367,700,000	363,600,000	92,700,000	72,400,000

COTTON—The market was very thinly attended to-day, and no alteration in prices.

LINSEED—The imports during the week amount to 6,700 quarters. Prices on the spot are steady, without change; two floating cargoes from the Azov have changed hands, at 60s. 6d@60s. 9d., delivered. In Calcutta Seed, shipments from September to the end of the year have reached 66c. 6d.@66s., cost, freight, insurance.

LINSEED CAKES in good demand for consumption. English difficult to buy, at £12 ⅌ ton.

LARD rather firmer.

MOLASSES—There has been a small sale of Cuba, at 17s. 3d.

OILS—There is a further improvement in Linseed, the market being firm at 36s. for prompt delivery, 40s. is demanded for delivery early next year, and 41s. for April and June. Rape: Brown has declined to 51s. 6d.@51s.; Refined show of sale, at 54s. 6d.@55s. Palm, £47@£48. Cocoa Nut, £38 10s.@£49. In Fish little doing: Pale Seal has advanced to £50.

SPELTER—Lake on the spot, £24 15s.@£25.

SUGAR—During the holidays the market has been entirely closed. The following were the imports and stocks on 1st instant:

	IMPORTS		STOCKS	
	1853.	1854.	1853.	1854.
Chief Ports	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
of Europe	204,500,000	184,200,000	81,200,000	71,100,000
Gr't Britain	128,000,000	139,100,000	230,600,000	257,900,000
Totals	332,500,000	323,300,000	311,800,000	329,000,000

TALLOW has been sold to-day at 64c., on the spot.

TEA—A parcel of about 3,000 chests Fo-cow-ho has been realized at very full prices. We quote common Congou 10d. ⅌ lb., buyers.

TURPENTINE—A small sale of rough has been made at 11s. 6d. Spirits are dull at 39s. for English.

AMERICAN STOCKS—There have been purchases to some extent of Pennsylvania State Bonds, at 80. Virginia Sterling 5 ⅌ Cent. Bonds have been sold at 84@85, ex div. Massachusetts Sterling 5 ⅌ Cents at 101¾. Pennsylvania Railroad (1st Mortgage) Dollar 6 ⅌ Cent. Bonds at 87, ex div.; do. (2d Mortgage) 6 ⅌ Cent. Sterling Bonds 90, div. from October. Illinois Central Bonds, 60. United States 6 ⅌ Cent. Bonds, 1868, sellers at 108. Indiana State, 70. Kentucky 6 ⅌ Cents 90, ex div. Maryland 94, sellers. Canada 6 ⅌ Cent. Bonds 107, ex div. BARING BROTHERS & CO.

Liverpool Markets.

Per Baltic.] LIVERPOOL, Friday, Dec. 29, 1854.

There has been only a languid demand for COTTON since our Circular of 23d inst., and prices during the whole week have inclined rather in favor of buyers, though not to an extent to establish any quotable decline. The declaration of the annual Stock-taking to-day having proved the actual stock to be about 43,000 bales less than appeared by the estimated returns, the market has shown more firmness again, and it closes steadily.

The sales for the week ending yesterday are 29,430 bales, of which 920 are for export, and 450 on speculation; to-day they are estimated at 7,000 bales, with 1,000 to speculators and exporters. The only change made in prices is in fair, which is called ¼ lower, the demand having run more upon middling and good middling qualities of the new crop at full rates, and we quote: Fair Orleans 5¾d.; Fair Mobiles 5¾d.; Fair Uplands 5¾d.; Middling Orleans, 5d.; Middling Mobiles 4¾d.; Middling Uplands 4 15-16d.; Inferior and Ordinary 3¾d.@4½d. ⅌ lb. The stock in Liverpool is ascertained to be 551,340 bales, of which 395,730 are American, against 367,500 and 266,170 bales of American at same time last year. The stock in the whole United Kingdom is 634,430 bales, against 717,560 in 1853.

The Christmas holidays, which have interfered as usual with trade here, have also limited the business in Manchester; but on the whole there is rather a better feeling than prevailed there some weeks since.

There is not much activity in the Grain Market, but prices are very firmly maintained in the absence of arrivals; and except from the Baltic there is no expectation of any early Foreign supply of importance. We quote White WHEAT 12s. 3d. to 13s. 9d.; Red 11s. to 12s. 3d.; ⅌ 70 lbs. Western Canal FLOUR 42s.@43s. 6d.; Philadelphia and Baltimore 44s.@45s.; Ohio 45s. 6d.@46s. 6d.; Canada 42s. 6d.@44s.; and Sour 32s.@41s., ⅌ bbl. Yellow INDIAN CORN 45s.@45s. 6d.; Mixed 44s.@44s. 6d.; and White 45s.@46s. ⅌ quarter.

There is a moderate inquiry for RESIN at 5s. 3d. ⅌ cwt. Nothing doing in TURPENTINE.

Yours respectfully, BROWN, SHIPLEY & CO.

Another Circular.

LIVERPOOL, Friday, Dec. 29, 1854.

There is a steady but not active demand for BEEF, and full prices continue to be made. PORK is in improved demand, and the quality of the new American now landing proving satisfactory, an advance of 1s.@2s. ⅌ bbl. has been made for some parcels, ex ship. The market for BACON has been quiet this week; a few parcels of new have arrived and have found buyers, but old, in consequence of holders asking an advance, has not moved so freely. The sales of LARD are to an average extent, and last week's advance has been maintained. The demand for CHEESE, as usual after the Christmas purchases, is inactive, but the stock is light and holders firm. There is rather more firmness in the TALLOW market. LINSEED CAKE only moderately active. The CORN market has been unusually quiet, with the exception of Indian Corn, which has been looked after at full prices. To-day the market for WHEAT and FLOUR continued inactive, without change in quotations. INDIAN CORN also participated in the general dullness.

WM. GARDNER & CO., Brokers.

MARKET REPORTS.

Markets...*Carefully reported for the N. Y. Daily Times.*

THURSDAY, Jan. 11—5 P. M.

ASHES—Only 50 bbls. changed hands to-day, at $7 25 for Pearls, and $6 62½@$6 75 for Pots, ⅌ 100 lbs.

COFFEE—We have no particular alteration to notice. The day's sales include (by auction) 4,700 packages Java at 12½c.; 500 do. do. at 12½c.; and (privately) 150 bags Rio at 9½c.@10⅞c., ⅌ lb.

COTTON—This day's business has been limited, but prices have not varied. Last evening sales transpired of about 4,000 bales, on *freeze*. These were in addition to what we reported in this morning's TIMES. The current rates are as follows:

NEW-YORK CLASSIFICATION.

	Upland.	Florida.	Mobile.	New-Orleans and Texas.
Ordinary	7	7	7	7
Middling	8¼	8¼	8¼	8¼
Middling Fair	9	9	9¼	9¼
Fair	9¾	9¾	10	10¼

FRUIT—This day's sales have been confined to 500 boxes Raisins at yesterday's prices.

FLOUR AND MEAL—State and Western brands have been in better request, especially for shipment, but holders have freely supplied the wants of buyers; and, thereby, prevented any improvement in prices. The day's sales reach 6,000 bbls. We quote:

Superfine No. 2	$6 00@$6 25
Ordinary Brands	$6 75@$7 87½
Straight Brands	$8 00@$8 50
Fancy do. do.	$8 62½@$8 75
Mixed Western	$8 00@$8 12½
Common to Good Indiana and Michigan	$8 00@$8 12½
Fancy Michigan	$8 25@$8 50
Common to Good Ohio	$8 12½@$8 50
Fancy Ohio	$8 62½@$8 75
Extra Ohio	$8 62½@$8 75
Extra Indiana and Michigan	$8 62½@$8 75
Fancy Genesee	$8 50@$8 62½
Extra Genesee	$8 75@$9 00

Canadian is in fair demand at former rates; 1,100 bbls. superfine realized $6@$6 25, chiefly the lower price, in bond; and $6 87½@$10, free. ⅌ bbl. Southern still favors purchasers. There were 1,500 bbls. obtained at $6@$6 62½ for mixed to good straight and favorite brands; with $6 87½@$10 50 for fancy and extra. ⅌ bbl.

Rye Flour and Corn Meal are essentially unchanged.

GRAIN—Wheat is in light supply and is rather quiet. The sales include 2,500 bushels good white Southern at 92, 92½, and 500 prime Long Island red at 4 price; not allowed to be published. Rye is plentiful and is less inquired for at $1 37 for Jersey, and $1 39@$1 40 for Northern, ⅌ bushel. Barley rules dull and heavy. A lot of 700 bushels damaged brought $1 10 ⅌ bushel. Oats are in rather better request, at 58c.@57½c. for State, and 60c.@60c. for Western, ⅌ bushel. Corn is in moderate supply and demand at steady prices. Sales were reported of 16,500 bushels, at $1 05 for Western mixed, delivered; $1 06 for Southern yellow; and $1 08@$1 09 for inferior to prime Jersey yellow, ⅌ bushel.

HAY—Sales to-day slowly at $1, for shipment, and $1 12½ for local use, ⅌ 100 lbs.

HOPS—Last year's growth continued in moderate demand, at 32c.@36c. ⅌ lb. Some fair.

IRON—Scotch Pig is retailing at $30@$31, usual terms, ⅌ ton; but other kinds are quite nominal.

LATHS—Eastern are quiet, but quoted firm at $1 50, cash, ⅌ 1,000.

LIME—The market is inactive at old quotations.

MOLASSES—Only 150 bbls. New-Orleans changed hands, at 27c. ⅌ gallon.

NAVAL STORES—Nothing further has occurred in Crude Turpentine, which is quoted at $2 87½@$2 25 ⅌ 250 lbs. Sales were made of 300 bbls. Spirits Turpentine, in shipping order, at 42c.@44c., cash, ⅌ gallon; mostly at the lowest quotations. 200 bbls. low No. 1 Rosin, at $2 10, and small lots of common do. at $1 87½ ⅌ bbl. Tar is unchanged.

OILS—We have nothing new, to notice in Whale, Sperm or Olive. Linseed is rather more inquired for by the trade, at 41c.@42c. ⅌ gallon. Lard Oil is selling in lots, at previous figures.

PROVISIONS—Pork is still rather quiet, but is held with much firmness. The arrivals are not very large, and owners display less eagerness to sell. This day's transactions include 540 bbls., in lots, at $12 25@$12 37½ for Old Mess; $14@$14 25 for new do.; $12 25 for Old Prime, which is extremely scarce, and $13 for new do., ⅌ bbl. Prime Mess in retailing at $16@$16 50 for City, $14 75@$15 25 for Western, ⅌ bbl. Dressed Hogs readily bring 6c.@6½c. ⅌ ⅌ lb. Pickled Meats are selling slowly at 8½c.@9c. for hams, and 6c.@6½c. for shoulders, ⅌ lb. Dry salted Meats are rare and needed at full prices. There still exists a good inquiry for Bacon at 8½c.@9c. ⅌ lb. Lard is in fair demand at buoyant rates. The day's sales comprise 300 bbls., good to prime, at 10½c.@10½c.; and 500 kegs prime, at 10½c. ⅌ lb. Beef is not very active, but is steady, the sales consisting of 250 bbls.; at $5 50@$7 for Country Prime; $8 75@$11 25 for do. Mess; $14 75@$15 25 for repacked Chicago do.; and $15 50@$16 for extra do. ⅌ bbl. Prime Mess Beef is in good request at buoyant prices. Beef Hams are salable and steady at, as in quality, from $13@$16 ⅌ bbl. Butter is plenty and heavy, at 12c.@18c. for Ohio, and 22c. for Western New-York, and 24c.@27c. for Orange County. Cheese is more freely offered, and is depressed, at 10c.@11c. ⅌ lb.

RICE—Sales of 400 tierces fair to choice were effected to-day at 93 75@$4 62½ ⅌ 100 lbs.

SPICES—WILMERDINGS & MOUNT held a peremptory sale of Spices to-day, and succeeding in disposing of most, if not all, of what was offered at prices averaging 77½c. for Nutmegs, not quite prime; 26½c. for Cassia, 12½c. for Cloves, 10½c. for Pepper, 80c. for Mace, 4c. for Ginger, all on a credit of 4 and 8 months; and 12½c. for Pimento, cash, ⅌ lb.

SUGARS—The market is quiet, but otherwise unchanged. Sales transpired to-day of small lots of Cuba at 4½c.@4½c.; New-Orleans at 5c.@5½c.; and 60 boxes brown Havana on terms not disclosed, ⅌ lb.

TALLOW—Sales were reported to-day of 10,000 lbs. prime at 12½c.@12⅝c., cash, ⅌ lb.

TEAS—Yesterday a peremptory sale was made by Messrs. WILMERDINGS & MOUNT, and though the cat

AUCTION SALES.

BELL & LEVINE, Auctioneers.
BY BELL & LEVINE, THURSDAY, Jan. 11, at 10 o'clock, at the store, No. 10 Chatham-st., Hebrew Books, Tallitim, Tefilin, &c. Also, a large stock of Hebrew Publications, consisting of various kinds, in the market and in great demand, of which the greater part of the Rabbinical Works, Talmudic Works, Commentaries, Hebrew Grammars, Dictionaries, Bibles, Prayer Books, &c. Also, a large stock of Hebrew Publications, consisting of various kinds, in the market and in great demand, of which the greater part of the Rabbinical Works, Talmudic Works, Commentaries, Hebrew Grammars, Dictionaries, Bibles, Prayer Books, &c. Also, a large stock of Hebrew Publications, consisting of various kinds, in the market and in great demand, of which the greater part of the Rabbinical Works, Talmudic Works, Commentaries, Hebrew Grammars, Dictionaries, Bibles, Prayer Books, &c.

Also, a large assortment of Hebrew articles, Beth-Hamidrash, just received by the Barque; consisting of various kinds, Shofros, Lulavim, Etrogim, &c.; also, an entire Synagogue, viz. Ark, Reading Desk, Lamps, Chairs, Benches, Tables, Curtains, Ornaments, Lattices, Tablets, Ten Commandments, Lamp chains, Sockets, Tables to hold and carry chairs, Lectern, Pulpit, Wall Lamp, Lamp Stand, Brass Chandelier, Brass Lamp, Brass Candlesticks, Brass Candle Sticks, Brass Candle Snuffers, Brass Candle Sticks, Brass Candle Snuffers, Brass Candle Sticks, Brass Candle Snuffers

NEW-YORK DAILY TIMES.

LEGISLATIVE INTELLIGENCE

By Telegraph to the New-York Daily Times.

STATE AFFAIRS.

NEW-YORK SENATORIAL ELECTION.

WARM DEBATE.

Interesting to Politicians and Public Magistrates.

The Property of Prisoners to be Returned.

SCENE IN THE ASSEMBLY.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.....ALBANY, Thursday, Jan. 11.

The Chair introduced a bill removing the restrictions in the charters of foreign bank bills.

Mr. Parker introduced a bill more effectually to suppress lotteries.

Mr. Bates gave notice of a bill to amend the Charter of company Savings Banks in New-York.

Mr. Tuer introduced a bill to authorize Charitable Institutions in New-York to bind out children.

A bill was passed in relation to unclaimed dividends of Insurance Companies.

Mr. Tuer laid on the table resolutions asking Congress not to renew McCauleyson's patent for pumpers.

Mr. Chesney introduced resolutions to inquire into the expediency of amending all articles of Association under the general law to be recorded. Also, for the publication of weekly statements of the supplies for the State Prisons, which were adopted.

Mr. Parker offered a resolution calling on the Attorney General to report the state of the suits against Trinity Church. Adopted.

The consideration of the repeal of coal duty was called up, discussed and laid over.

The bill concerning executions in New-York was ordered to a third reading. The provisions of the bill extend to Brooklyn.

ASSEMBLY.....ALBANY, Jan. 11.

General order of the day. A bill to expedite the canvass of votes at a Special Election in Ontario Senate District, was ordered to a third reading.

Mr. Tuer rose and said: Mr. Chairman, I was surprised and mortified, a day or two since, when this bill was reported to the Special Committee, at the remarks made by the gentleman from Livingston and Ontario Counties in which unmeaning motives were attributed to Governor Clark for his action in the matter of this special election. It is true that the gentleman did not openly and generally express their views or make direct charges against the Governor; but by hints and innuendoes they sent suspicions on his motives in delaying upon the time named for the special election, and in holding on to the Senatorial office until after his election as Governor.

Mr. Brown—I rise to call the gentleman from Franklin to order. I did not, in the remarks I made upon the reference of the bill, say one word that could be construed into any imputation upon the action of Governor Clark.

Mr. Lawrence—I also call the gentleman to order. The remarks I made do not contain any charges or insinuations against the Governor.

Mr. Tuer—In the remarks made by the gentleman from Ontario, the circumstances connected with the vacancy in the Twenty-ninth District, were so spoken of as to cast imputation upon the conduct of the Governor, and the gentleman said that these circumstances were such as to excite suspicions of improper motives. They so struck me that I noted down his remarks. Now let me ask, Mr. Chairman, is it well for the Governor's friends to review the facts and the law applicable to the subject, and show if we did not have been guilty of unkindness, let him be held up to public scorn and execration, but if not let us clear him from all censure that these, had Gentlemen unknowingly impressions of their motives to have him. Let the conditions and facts which have been spoken upon be ventilated, if unknowing, and let him stand before the House in his true light.

Mr. F. W. Palmer—I rise to a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The gentleman from Warren made a motion that the Committee rise and report the bill to the House, and I call for this to be debatable.

The Chairman—It is debatable.

Mr. Tuer continued: I took the House to review the facts in this case. Governor Clark was nominated for the office of Governor on the 26th of September last, and when so nominated he was holding the Senatorial office in the Twenty-ninth District. He had been elected to that office for two years, and the term would not expire until the 31st day of December, 1855. He was elected Governor of the State at the election held on the 7th of November last, but the question of his election was not finally settled until the meeting of the State Canvassers in the first week of December. It might be held by some that Governor Clark should have resigned his office of Senator when first nominated as the Whig candidate for Governor.

Mr. Rhodes—I call the gentleman to order. He is not speaking to the question.

The Chairman—The question of order is not well taken.

Mr. Tuer—I repeat it might be held that Governor Clark should have resigned one office when nominated for another. But let us remember that he was the choice of the people of the Twenty-ninth Senatorial District to represent them in the Senate of the State; and we need only refer to the remarks of the gentleman from Livingston himself, as a sufficient answer to any such implication. That gentleman has told us, distinctly and emphatically that it was the desire of the people of the Twenty-ninth District that the nominee should continue to hold his office of Senator. In holding on to that office, then, Gov. Clark did but observe and obey the wish of his constituents. He would, according to the testimony of the gentleman from Livingston himself, having been acting in direct opposition to the will of his constituents, had he then resigned the office conferred upon him; and it was, therefore, clearly his duty to hold on to the office until it was decided if he was chosen Governor. He did hold on until the State Canvassers met. It may be, said that when it was determined that Governor Clark was elected to the Executive office, he should have at once resigned his seat in the Senate. Let us see how it would have worked had he then vacated his office. By reference to the law regulating special elections, the 1st volume of the 5th edition of the Revised Statutes, page 385, in the 5th section, sub-division 3, it will be found that the provisions read as follows:

Sub-3. Special elections shall be held in the following cases: When a vacancy occurs in the office of any Senator or Member of the Assembly, after the last day of December in any year, and before the first day of March following.

It appears, then, that no special election can be had if the vacancy occurs before the last day of December or after the 1st day of March. Had the Senator resigned, Gov. Clark could not have issued his proclamation for a special election, and the vacancy could not have been filled. The 1st day of January must arrive, or the first day of March must pass, before the special election could be ordered. We find, therefore, that Gov. Clark did what he was entitled to do—held on to the office of Senator until the 1st day of January had passed. We have seen that the time when it first became his duty to call a special election was the 1st day of January. Let us now look how these elections are to be called and held.

Mr. Murray—I rise to a point of order. I find that a motion to rise and report progress is not debatable.

The Chair—That is not the question before the House. The motion of the gentleman from Allegany was not to report progress, but to report the bill to the House.

Mr. Tuer continued his remarks. The law relating to the subject, provides that a notice shall be given of not less than twenty nor more than forty days when a special election is ordered. Gov. Clark entered upon his duties as Governor on the 1st of January. On the 4th, his proclamation was issued fixing the time when the election was to be held. He only lost four days in calling the election—the four first days of office, when he was overwhelmed with business, and when, as we all well know, his ear could not be obtained by any member of this House without the greatest difficulty. Did we ask you if you can find in this any imputation of delay, or any ground for casting imputations upon the conduct of a public officer of the State? I think you will answer me in the negative. Let us see, then, if he did not fix upon the earliest day for the election—he might have fixed it upon the second, or the third, or any other day that the law allowed, if he thought proper. The law provides that the election shall be held on the 2d Tuesday of the month following the date of the proclamation. Now, if he had fixed the time for the election on the 2d Tuesday of January, he might have been charged with a design to deprive the people of the Twenty-ninth District of representation in the Senate for a long period. He